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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



DISMANTLED DMZ

Korean border troops verify removal of some front-line posts

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SOUTH KOREAN DEFENSE MINISTRY/AP

South Korean army soldiers perform an inspection at a dismantled North Korean guard post inside the Demilitarized Zone in Cheorwon on Wednesday.

Family, friends remember Marines killed in KC-130J crash off Japan's coast

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The five missing Marines who were aboard the KC-130J tanker plane that collided midair with an F/A-18 fighter off the coast of Japan last week ranged from young corporals early in their service to a veteran pilot, who was the executive officer of their Japan-based squadron.

On Tuesday, they were declared dead, ending days of searching for them.

The crewmembers aboard the aerial refueling plane were Lt. Col. Kevin Herrmann, 38, of Fredericksburg, Va.; Maj. James M. Brophy, 36, of Staatsburg, N.Y.; Staff Sgt. Maximo Flores, 27, of Surprise, Ariz.; Cpl. Carter Ross, 21, of Hendersonville, Tenn.; and Cpl. Daniel Baker, 21, of Tremont, Ill., the Marine Corps announced Wednesday.

The fallen Marines belonged to Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, nicknamed the Sumos, and were based at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in Japan.

Their bodies were not recovered during a five-day search that spanned 35,000 square nautical miles of the Pacific Ocean following the midair collision at about 2 a.m. local time Dec. 6.

Marine Lt. Gen. Eric Smith, the commander of III Expeditionary Force, called off the search effort Tuesday after American, Australian and Japanese forces spent

a combined total of about 900 hours searching for the missing crew.

The KC-130J crewmembers were not the only Marines to perish in the crash. Capt. Jahmar Resillard, a 28-year-old pilot of the Hornet, was also killed in the incident. His body was recovered in the hours after the crash alongside another unnamed Hornet pilot, who survived and has been released from the hospital.

SEE CRASH ON PAGE 3

MILITARY

French servicemember dies in Niger accident

Injured American in stable condition after incident

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany—The U.S. military is investigating a vehicle accident involving U.S. and French troops in Niger that left one French servicemember dead and an American injured, U.S. Africa Command said Tuesday.

The U.S. servicemember was in stable condition after the Saturday vehicle accident, which was unrelated to any combat operation, said Maj. Karl Wiest, an AFRI-COM spokesman.

"American military personnel provided on-site medical care to the French servicemember before medically evacuating him to Agadez for additional care," Wiest said in a statement.

The New York Times, citing unnamed defense officials, reported the driver — a

Green Beret — might have been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident.

AFRICOM said the incident was under investigation and offered few details about the nature of the accident.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of the affected servicemember," Wiest said.

"There is an ongoing investigation into this incident. We will release more details as appropriate."

The French servicemember died while undergoing treatment in Agadez, AFRI-COM said.

The American was evacuated to Europe for treatment, the command said.

The U.S. military operates at a base in Agadez, known as Niger Air Base 201. The site will eventually be a hub for oper-

ating drone flights, but work on the \$100 million facility is not yet complete. The United States expects to be flying missions from the site in 2019, and there are several hundred U.S. personnel working at the facility.

During the past two years, the United States has quietly added troops in western Africa, and Niger has emerged as a main hub of operations.

However, an ambush in October 2017 that left four U.S. soldiers dead brought increased scrutiny to American military efforts in the region.

While the United States has been involved in counterterrorism missions in the area for years, the fact that U.S. special operations troops were in the line of fire in two took many officials in Washington by surprise.

In the aftermath, several troops were issued reprimands from military leadership for planning and oversight failures connected to the mission.

Maj. Gen. Marcus Hicks, who leads U.S. Special Operations Command Africa, was the highest ranking officer to receive a reprimand.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon recently announced it will reduce the number of troops operating out of western Africa as the military shifts its focus to China and Russia.

Still, AFRICOM said its mission in Niger and partnership with local forces is important for countering extremism.

"A safe, stable, secure and prosperous Africa is an enduring United States interest," Wiest said.

"The U.S. military provides training and security assistance to the Nigerian Armed Forces, including support for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to facilitate their efforts to target violent extremist organizations in the region."

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EUCOM commander to hold talks with Russian defense chief

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti was to hold talks Wednesday with Russia's top military chief, a rare meeting at a time of tension after Russia's recent attack on Ukrainian ships and a threat from the U.S. to quit a key nuclear treaty with Moscow.

Scaparrotti, NATO's supreme allied commander and head of U.S. European Command, was to meet Russia's defense chief Gen. Valery Gerasimov in Baku, Azerbaijan, in order "to promote military predictability and transparency," said Lt. Col. Virginia McCabe, a spokeswoman for Scaparrotti.

Uncertainty about Russia's next moves in Ukraine are likely to loom over the talks. Tensions in the Black Sea region have been an area of growing concern for top NATO leaders.

In Brussels last week, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged allies to take a firmer stance against Russian aggression in the region.

On Thursday, the U.S. conducted a surveillance flight over Ukraine under the Open Skies Treaty.

The flight, which came at the behest of Ukraine, was intended to demonstrate solidarity with Kiev after Russian warships opened fire on three Ukrainian vessels in the Black Sea near the tense Kerch Strait.

After the attack, Ukraine's government declared martial law in parts of the country amid concerns that Russia could launch a ground invasion.

Meanwhile, Pompeo last week also issued an ultimatum to Moscow, giving Russia 60 days to come into compliance with the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty or else the U.S. will begin the process of terminating the accord. NATO says a new Russian missile system — the 9M729 — is in violation of the treaty, which Moscow denies.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has threatened countermeasures should the U.S. move to develop missile systems banned under the pact.

Military officials had not outlined the agenda for Wednesday's talks between Scaparrotti and Gerasimov.

The last meeting between the generals was in April, which was then followed by a phone call in September, McCabe said.

"In their last exchange, the leaders agreed to continue using the military lines of communication," McCabe said.

Ahead of talks with Gerasimov, Scaparrotti met with military leaders from Azerbaijan, a country that has close ties to Russia but also cooperates with NATO and has sent troops in support of the alliance's mission in Afghanistan.

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PACIFIC

Crash: Marines killed in accident remembered

FROM FRONT PAGE

Marine officials are investigating the cause of the crash. In a statement Tuesday, the Marines said they had not determined whether the two aircraft were in the refueling process when the planes collided.

Lt. Col. Kevin Herrmann: 'He loved his family'

On the day of what would be his final flight, Lt. Col. Kevin Herrmann called his mother, Mary Herrmann. He knew she had recently undergone some medical tests so he wanted to see how she was feeling.

"How good is God that he urged him to call me?" Mary Herrmann said Saturday night to the crowd gathered in Fredericksburg, Va., to pray for her son and the four other Marines still missing after a mid-air crash in Japan to be found.

Because of the time difference, it was her morning and his evening. After that call, her son boarded his flight.

During the vigil, held in the town where the Marine's sister lives, it was clear Mary and Kevin Herrmann Sr.—though strong in their faith—expected the worst.

"Losing a child is hard and we've got through it with God's help and support," retired Marine Corps Col. Kevin Herrmann Sr. said at the vigil.

Their son joined the Marine Corps after graduating in 2002 from Appalachian State University in North Carolina. He was the pilot of the ill-fated KC-130J Hercules tanker plane that night and the executive officer to the 152nd Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron.

He joined the unit in 2016 and moved to Japan with his wife and their three daughters, ages 12, 10 and 7. He was posthumously promoted to lieutenant colonel, a rank that he had been selected for before his death.

"Kevin is everything that a man and a father and a son should be," the elder Herrmann said. "He enjoyed everything that life threw him. He loved his family. He cherished every moment with his kids."

Before arriving in Japan, Kevin Herrmann earned his master's degree at the Marine Corps University at Quantico, Va., according to his LinkedIn profile. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 as an operations officer and KC-130 aircraft commander. He served as a pilot in Iraq in 2005 and 2007.

His decorations included the Air Medal with twenty-four Strike Flight Awards, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, according to the Marine Corps. Since the announcement of the end of the search for the missing Marines, the family has asked the media for privacy as they grieve.

On Saturday, speaking to local TV station WJLA, Kevin Herrmann Sr. said, "We've

shed enough tears to fill all the oceans."

—Rose Thayer

Maj. James M. Brophy: 'True honor to know' him

The second pilot aboard the KC-130J was Maj. James M. Brophy.

Though his family has requested privacy following Brophy's death, some Marines who served with him described him in social media posts as a respected leader.

Trey Perkowski, who describes himself as a former KC-130J crew chief, said he knew Herrmann and Brophy.

"Terrible tragedy," he wrote on Twitter. "...Two great Marines who it was a true honor to know and fly with."

Brophy, 36, was commissioned in 2006 and served for 12 years before his death, according to the Marines.

His decorations include the Air Medal with two Strike Flight Awards, one Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and one Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, according to the service.

Brophy's father, Mike Brophy, is a retired captain with the Poughkeepsie Fire Department, according to the Daily Freeman newspaper in Kingston, N.Y.

He is survived by his wife, son and daughter.

As a student, Brophy was in the National Honor Society, jazz band and was a three-season athlete in cross country, track and field, Superintendent Greer Rychcik of Hyde Park Schools told the Poughkeepsie Journal.

"James was also named the scholar-athlete during his senior year, a regional award for athletes for his participation and high academic performance," Rychcik said to the newspaper.

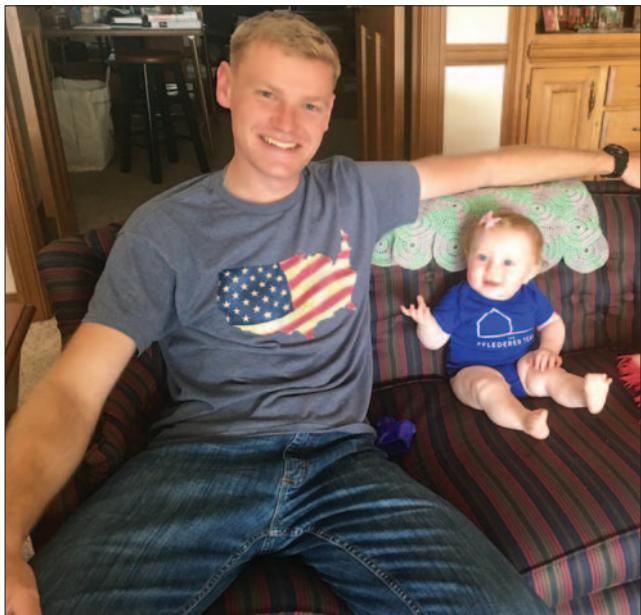
—Caitlin Kenney

Staff Sgt. Maximo Flores: 'I'm going to the Marines'

Staff Sgt. Maximo Alexander Flores was fulfilling his childhood dream to follow his father's footsteps into the ranks of the Marine Corps, family members told local news outlets near his hometown in Arizona.

Shortly after graduating from Valley Vista High School in Surprise, Ariz., in 2009, Flores enlisted in the Marines, choosing a career in the aviation field which would send him onto the crews of aerial refueling aircraft, his mother, Rosa Bennett, told azfamily.com, the website for television stations 3TV and CBS 5 in Phoenix. He aimed to make a full career out of the Marines, she said.

"Ever since he was a little kid he would always say, 'I'm going to go to the Marines. I'm going to the Marines,'" she told the television stations before flying to Japan to be closer to the search efforts. "And he did. He graduated, he went into the Marines and was



Courtesy photo

Marine Cpl. Daniel Baker relaxes with his cousin Hazel during a visit to his home in Tremont, Ill., in June. Baker was among the five crewmembers aboard a KC-130J Hercules air refueler who were killed when it collided with an F/A-18 jet off the coast of Japan on Dec. 6.



Courtesy photo

Maj. James M. Brophy, 36, of Staatsburg, N.Y., was a member of the crew.

doing really well. He loved serving his country."

His military service made his family proud, even as it sent him to far off places such as Japan, where he had been serving with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni for more than a year.

In an interview with Phoenix's 12 News, Flores' father, whose name is also Maximo Flores, said his son's Marine service was superior to his own.

"I am proud of a lot of the things I did, but he is someone who can be proud of everything he did," the elder Flores said.

The news of his son's disappearance was difficult, the Marine veteran said, growing emotional



Facebook photo

Cpl. Carter Ross, 21, from Hendersonville, Tenn., was one of the crewmembers killed.

during the interview.

"It's like this is something that only happens in the movies, you know, when the two Marines were approaching my apartment," the father said. "That's when the gloom set in. After that, I've been in a fog for days. It's a very, very hard feeling to endure."

In Facebook posts, family members remembered Staff Sgt. Flores as a caring and driven man.

"The world has lost a honorable, respected, kind and loving young man," Hope Flores, who identified herself as the Marine's aunt, wrote in a public post on the social media website. "Our family is very proud of him ... [rest in peace] our dear angel, Staff Sergeant Maximo A Flores. Maxie you did well."

Flores had been married nearly six years to his wife, Rebecca. Photos of the couple posted on their public Facebook pages showed them exploring Japan, dancing at Marine balls, firing rifles on shooting ranges and posing together at their wedding in January 2013.

Flores, who was the crew chief of the KC-103J, had earned decorations including the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal and a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal with one bronze star, according to the Marines.

"He was just very sweet," Bennett said of her son. "Always happy, real smart and just a good guy."

—Corey Dickstein

SEE CRASH ON PAGE 4

PACIFIC

Crash: Marines lost in collision remembered by family, friends

FROM PAGE 3

Cpl. Daniel Baker: 'A great young man'

A sense of adventure called Cpl. Daniel Baker into the Marines in 2016.

The 21-year-old was a stellar student, a member of his high school robotics team and a prime candidate for pursuing a degree in engineering. It's what his parents saw as "the logical choice."

But the quiet Marine crewmaster, whom friends said stood out with his blond hair and country drawl, had other plans.

"He wanted to see the world and felt called to serve his country in the Marines," his parents said in a statement shared with Stars and Stripes on Tuesday. "He wanted to do his part and join the ranks of some of the toughest, most committed men and women in the world and we are so proud of him for it, even though we feared a week like this one might come."

During his two years in the Marines, he had received the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, according to the service.

For the past four days, the Baker family in Tremont, Ill., waited with desperate hope that Daniel and four other missing crewmembers would be found alive after their KC-130J Hercules refueling aircraft collided with an F/A-18 fighter jet Thursday off the coast of Japan.

On Tuesday, the Marines announced they were calling off the search, saying



Flores



Herrmann

all five crewmembers were dead. The Bakers were notified of Daniel's death, said longtime family friend Matt Miller, who was asked by the family to speak on their behalf.

News spread quickly among the 2,200 residents of the town in central Illinois. Tremont High School, where Baker graduated in 2015 and his younger sister is now a student, held a moment of silence Saturday night at their home basketball game.

"It's been a difficult couple of days here," said Jeff Hinman, superintendent of Tremont School District No. 702. "This is an extremely tight-knit community and our residents support these kids in an unbelievable fashion. So they watched him grow up."

For those who knew Baker, the world lost a little of its kindness Thursday. The Baker family released a statement recounting stories from his family and friends. Nearly all described his enormous compassion -- a person who was always willing to offer friendship, host church youth group parties or listen if someone needed to talk.

He had the ability to reach out to the

people around him and bring them in as friends regardless of their background, one friend said. In his quiet way, he touched the lives of many.

"He was a great young man," Miller said. "He was a joy to be around. He was quiet, but willing to do whatever you asked of him."

When Baker stopped by the school a few months ago while on home leave, Hinman said he was struck by how eloquently the young Marine spoke about his work.

"He always had a great deal of confidence but there was a poise about him that was different," Hinman said. "I remember just how well he articulated his service and how much he truly loved what he was doing."

Tremont High School had another home game scheduled Tuesday night. Hinman said the community would once again stand in silence, this time in full-on grief.

— Dianna Cahn

Cpl. Carter Ross: 'Furiously loyal'

Cpl. Carter Ross, 21, from Hendersonville, Tenn., was a joker who loved to work on his cars and listen to old music such as Johnny Cash and Creedence Clearwater Revival.

"[Carter] wanted to make everybody laugh," his mother, Michelle Ross, said Tuesday.

Continuing his family's tradition of military service that goes back to World War I, Ross joined the Marine Corps in 2016 because "he wanted to make a difference,"

said his father, Todd Ross, a veteran of the Navy and the Army National Guard.

Ross worked on the plane's maintenance and aerial refueling duties, his father said. This was his first assignment in the Marine Corps and he was working toward becoming a crewmaster. His decorations included the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, according to the Marines.

He was "furiously loyal," the elder Ross said. "He would do anything for anybody. But you didn't want to disrespect people that he cared for."

His mother added, "If he loved you, he loved you with everything."

Todd Ross said he's "finding out more and more [his son had] friends all over the world by reading the posts of people that knew him from boot camp and through the schools," like Marine Combat Training.

"People just loved him. He was a good Marine, he was a good human all the way around," said his father.

Ross also has twin sisters, Katherine and Sarah, age 16.

A GoFundMe page has been set up for his family by two friends, according to WSMV News 4 in Nashville, Tenn. As of Tuesday afternoon, more than \$4,000 of the \$5,000 goal has been donated.

"Anyone who knows Carter Ross would say he is an amazing person all around," the fund description reads. "He is one of the silliest and most compassionate people you will ever meet."

— Caitlin Kenney



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MILITARY

Lawmakers urge vigilance in wake of Marine deaths

By CLAUDIA GRISALE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — In a somber congressional hearing on Navy and Marine Corps readiness, lawmakers expressed condolences, read aloud the names of the Marines who died in a recent crash and urged vigilance for the military.

Six Marines were killed when a KC-130J tanker plane and an F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet crashed midair off the coast of Japan last week. One pilot from the Hornet survived. On Tuesday, the five missing Marines from the KC-130J were declared dead, ending days of searching for them.

On Wednesday, several lawmakers offered their thoughts and prayers to the fallen Marines and gratitude to their families for their service during a joint hearing for the Senate Armed Services Committee subpanels on sea power and readiness and management support.

"We have to do better; we must do better, all of us, including the Congress," Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee subpanel on readiness and management support, told top Navy and Marine Corps officials. "We have to do better and what we need to do on our side is to make sure



Pendleton

the problem."

With his comments, Sullivan highlighted the Marine deaths as well as the 17 sailors lost in last year's collisions of the USS John S. McCain and USS Fitzgerald.

"Thank you for keeping your thoughts and prayers in mind for those Marines affected," Navy Secretary Richard Spencer told lawmakers in reference to last week's crash. "And I would go one step further and please say keep your thoughts and prayers for all our Marine Corps teams that are out in harm's way."

It has been more than six months since the panels had received an update from the Navy and Marine Corps on their posture for the 2019 fiscal year, which began Oct. 1.

Spencer testified Wednesday alongside Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller; Vice

Adm. William Moran, vice chief of naval operations; and John Pendleton, director of defense capabilities and management at the U.S. watchdog agency Government and Accountability Office.

More than one year ago, Pendleton said he had the "grim duty" to report that Navy training was not up to its own standards, with requirements being waived at an alarming rate. The Navy in a series of internal studies concluded that lack of training had contributed to last year's deadly collisions.

Ahead of Wednesday's hearing, Pendleton visited Japan and discovered positive findings.

"What I found was encouraging. The Navy has stepped up training ... and they've committed to dedicated training time going forward," Pendleton told lawmakers. "Things had improved remarkably; however, this is keeping sailors very busy."

In talking to sailors, Pendleton learned that while morale is high, servicemembers are still seeing 100-hour workweeks. That's driving concerns that the Navy is not yet putting enough sailors on ships to cover its workload, and now a study is underway to examine ship manning requirements.

Pendleton said there's decreased availability of ships and submarines due to maintenance

delays. Since 2012, the Navy has lost more than 27,000 days of ship and submarine availability, and this year was particularly challenging, Pendleton said. There's also been related shortages for aircrafts, he added.

"Completing maintenance on time has proven to be a wicked problem," Pendleton said.

It will take significant time to rebuild the readiness of the ship, submarine and aviation fleets, and it will require sustained attention, he said.

That comes as Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has issued an ambitious directive for military aircraft to reach an 80 percent readiness goal for next year, which might not be reached in time.

"It is a stretch goal, but it is a stretch goal we will take," Spencer said in response to questions on whether the 80 percent goal can be reached.

Spencer also said there's already been marked readiness improvements, especially with a boost in funding in recent years that's been driving the changes. However, the service needs time to reach its goals.

"You are seeing improvement — you'll hear it today — but the rate of improvement must increase and we do have plans to address that," he said. "And while

we have much to do, we are well underway."

In line with the National Defense Strategy to defend against great power competitors such as China and Russia, the Navy is working to build a more lethal and ready force, strengthen alliances and reform the way it does business, Spencer said.

Consistent funding will be key to the Navy continuing to meet its goals, he said. Neller and Moran also echoed Spencer's comments that inconsistent or a dramatic slash in funding could threaten the military's readiness gains.

"We lose proficiency; we lose expertise," Moran warned if resources and funding are curtailed.

"Some of the really bad things we've seen could increase in terms of their potential, and I'm talking about deaths in training and the activities; that's the ultimate risk, right?" Sullivan asked. "My biggest concern is we see more of these deaths. None of us should tolerate it. ... This is a readiness challenge that's killing our Marines and our sailors."

Though the Defense Department budget is set for late into 2019, its next spending plan remains a moving target.

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EUROPE

The King tells you to walk in German town

By Aaron Knowles
Stars and Stripes

FRIEDBERG, Germany — Elvis left the building long ago, but in Friedberg the King never really went away.

Now, 60 years after Elvis Presley was a GI stationed at Friedberg's Ray Barracks, the city has put up special crosswalk lights in celebration of its connection to the most famous singer to ever don an Army uniform.

At Elvis Presley Platz, pedestrian lights have been put up that show iconic images of the King.

A red-colored Elvis singing with a microphone means stop; a green Elvis doing his famous hip-shaking dance means proceed.

The pedestrian lights are the latest addition in the city's ongoing ode to Elvis.

Starting in 1958, Elvis Presley spent nearly two years stationed near Friedberg and the neighboring town of Bad Nauheim, where Elvis met his future wife, Priscilla.

Bad Nauheim has become a popular tourism site and is the self-proclaimed European home of Elvis.

During his military service, Elvis — who died on Aug. 16, 1977 — also spent time at Grafenwoehr, where Pfc. Presley

conducted maneuver training, and where the local museum has a special exhibit dedicated to the King with photos and letters associated with his stay.

Since 2014, Friedberg has been renovating the heart of the town, which features signs with information about the singer, including one that points in the direction of his Graceland home in Memphis, Tenn.

The idea behind the lights, which cost about \$1,000 each, was to create something eye-catching for visitors, local politician Marion Goetz told the regional newspaper Wetterauer Zeitung.

The renovations were launched as part of a broader campaign to expand the original town square.

Upgrades and changes included fountains, additional trees for shade in the summer and advertising columns marked with facts about Elvis, according to Friedberg's town website.

Over the years, thousands of U.S. soldiers passed through the Friedberg area, but the Army's presence came to an end in 2007 when Ray Barracks was closed during the post-Cold War drawdown.

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Friedberg, Germany, has put up Elvis Presley-themed crosswalk lights. Far left: A red Elvis singing on the mic means stop. Left: A hip-shaking green Elvis means to proceed.



PHOTOS BY AARON KNOWLES/Stars and Stripes

Signs in Friedberg, Germany's Elvis Presley Platz point to stations in the singer's life.

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PACIFIC

Ride to the top: Tower will be upgraded

Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum visitors to get 360-degree view after elevator renovations

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum has raised the needed \$700,000 to repair the elevator in the Ford Island Control Tower, which stood partially constructed during the Dec. 7, 1941, surprise attack by the Japanese.

The 168-foot tower, unscathed during the attack, was completed in 1942.

The goal is to have the iconic tower's elevator working and open to visitors by September 2020, the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, said Elissa Lines, executive director of the museum.

From that 360-degree view, visitors will be able to gaze upon Pearl Harbor — where Japanese planes decimated Battleship Row — as well as the USS Arizona Memorial and the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

The museum has dubbed this view of historic sites from the tower's upper control cab "Freedom's View," Lines said.

"At this point, we have raised the funds required to complete the elevator repair," she said. "We are in the process of working with the Navy to review our plans to ensure compliance with all regulations."

Funds were received from the state of

Hawaii and private donors. The fundraising goal was met last week when U-Haul announced a significant donation during the 77th anniversary of the attack on Dec. 7. The amount of that donation was not disclosed. During the 1941 attack, flight-control operations at Naval Air Station Ford Island were conducted from the two-story aerological tower on the roof of the operations building, adjacent to the 168-foot Ford Island Control Tower then under construction.

The aerological tower was built in 1941 and designed to gauge wind direction and weather. It was designated a national historic landmark in 1962. The Ford Island Control Tower would later support flight-control operations for the airfield.

Both towers appeared in the Hollywood films "Tora! Tora! Tora!" and "Pearl Harbor," although the taller one is mistakenly depicted as built and operational on the date of the attack.

Work on stabilizing and restoring the Ford Island Control Tower began in 2010. Weather and time had badly corroded the structure, and 53 tons of steel were replaced, Lines said.

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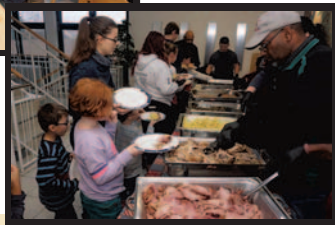
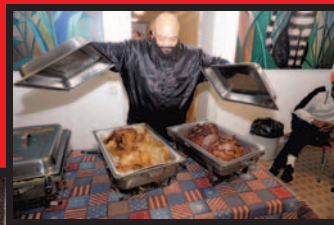


WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

The Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum finally has enough money to restore the elevator inside the Ford Island Control Tower, which stood partially built during the Japanese attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

VFW VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

On Saturday 24 November, the veterans from the Vilseck VFW sponsored Thanksgiving Dinner for the children and staff of the Immenreuth SOS Children's Village. After a brief explanation of the history of the holiday and why it is celebrated in the United States, Mr Rogers described the traditional foods served at Thanksgiving dinner. Mr Aldridge's tasty and well-prepared food satisfied the appetites of the villagers, the warm and engaging interaction of the other VFW members touched the hearts of all the children and adults present.



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PACIFIC

Santa airmen drop everything, help islanders

Annual Christmas event delivers relief to areas hit hard by typhoon

By CATLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — A measure of relief has gone into Operation Christmas Drop this year for residents of far-flung and sometimes inaccessible islands of the Northern Marianas, who in October endured one of history's most powerful typhoons.

Most of this year's donation boxes — filled by civilians from Guam and servicemembers from Australia, Japan and the United States — are going to islands near Saipan and Tinian. Typhoon Yutu battered those islands with 180 mph winds, flattening many of the islanders' homes.

Operation Christmas Drop — now in its 67th year — will help about 30,000 people on 56 islands across the Marianas, a U.S. commonwealth, as airmen push donation boxes on parachutes out of the backs of C-130J Super Hercules aircraft this week. The operation began on Sunday and continues through the week.

Tucked among the gifts of food, clothing and toys parachuted from the holds of cargo aircraft were tools and building supplies to help them recover.

"They are in the middle of the Pacific. There's no way there's going to be communication for them; transportation is difficult," said Bruce Best, who has worked with the islanders for the past 40 years. "It might be five months before they get a boat out there (with aid)."

Inside a hangar Saturday at Andersen, holiday cheer energized hundreds of volunteers as they packed 143 wooden boxes with about \$40,000 worth of donations.

Packing the boxes was a family affair for Kris Goertzman, of Guam. She and her airman husband brought their 2-, 4- and 10-year-old sons with them to carefully place donations into the boxes.

"I want my kids to see us giving back," she said. "It's important to set that example for them."

Event leaders call out each item in a precise order, for each box must be packed correctly, with weight limits and with heavy items on the bottom.

Airman Kaison Simien, of Andersen, said he was excited for the island residents to receive the fun and the essential items in the boxes, from canned food, toiletries, medicine and toys to clothing, fishing and diving supplies.

"I always give my stuff away, so when I'm able to do it on this big of a scale, it's great," Simien said. "I remember opening presents on Christmas morning. I can only



PHOTOS BY CATLIN DOORNBOS/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Chris Hofer and Senior Airman Walter Frank watch as green parachutes open to carry Operation Christmas Drop donations to islanders below.



Hundreds of servicemembers and Guam residents packed 143 wooden boxes with donations Saturday to be dropped by parachute to island residents during Operation Christmas Drop.

imagine if a whole box dropped from the sky." Capt. Patrick Steppe, of Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, said the chance to pack the boxes he and his team would later drop from above offered a personal touch.

"You actually feel like you're contributing to these people who don't have anything," he said. "It's a nice little touch to be like, 'I picked this item for you.'"

The recipients live on some of the most remote islands in the world, Best told Stars and Stripes. He installed a system of radio networks in the area to connect the isolated people to the outside world.

These islanders are still coping with Yutu's lingering devastation. "The main islands are without

roll off the Super Herc.

Each box was topped with a low-cost, low-altitude parachute system, which is rigged to a cord in the plane. As each box falls from the plane, the cord pulls the parachute open and the box floats onto the island or splashes into shallow water nearby.

The islanders wait on milelong slivers of land covered in palm trees and dotted with shacks, waving at the aircraft above.

Loadmaster Staff Sgt. Chris Hofer said he had been waiting years to take part in Operation Christmas Drop. He finally got the chance this year. The event provides real-world opportunity to employ the skills he practices regularly, he said.

"We're using the full spectrum of everything you do in this job," Hofer said.

Monday, airmen from the U.S.,

Philippines, Australia and Japan mingled at a ceremony celebrating the event as an Air Force band made the atmosphere jolly with Christmas tunes.

"Operation Christmas Drop offers unprecedented opportunities to practice and perfect dynamic, real-time airdrop training," Col. Otis Jones, commander of Yokota's 374th Airlift Wing, said at the ceremony.

"It tests our ability to deliver critical supplies to austere and unsurveyed drop zones."

At the ceremony, Best thanked volunteers and servicemembers for their work.

"This is what Christmas is for [the islanders]," he said. "When they hear the rumble of the plane engines, that's Christmas."

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Staff Sgt. Chris Hofer, a loadmaster from Yokota Air Base, prepares a box of Operation Christmas Drop donations onboard a C-130 Super Hercules on Sunday.

MILITARY

Koreas inspect former DMZ posts

By AHN YOUNG-JOON
AND HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

INSIDE THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE — Dozens of North and South Korean soldiers crossed over the world's most heavily armed border Wednesday as they inspected the sites of their rival's front-line guard posts to verify they'd been removed, part of inter-Korean engagement efforts that, come amid stalled U.S.-North Korea nuclear disarmament talks.

Soldiers from the two Koreas exchanged cigarettes and chatted as they inspected the dismantlement or disarmament of 22 guard posts — 11 from each country — inside the Demilitarized Zone that forms their 155-mile-long, 2.5-mile-wide border.

The inspections Wednesday were mostly symbolic — the removals will leave South Korea with about 50 other DMZ posts and North Korea with 150, according to defense experts in South Korea — but they mark an extraordinary change in ties from last year, when North Korea tested a series of increasingly powerful weapons and threatened Seoul and Washington with war.

A small group of journalists was allowed to enter the zone to watch a South Korean team leave for a North Korean guard post Wednesday morning and a North Korean team come to a South Korean guard post later in the day.

Seven helmeted South Korean soldiers wearing backpacks, one carrying a camera and another a camcorder, approached the line separating the northern and southern sides of the DMZ. North Korean troops then walked in a row down a hill to meet them. The soldiers from the rival Korea exchanged handshakes before moving up the hill together to go to the dismantled North Korean guard post.

Other groups of South Korean soldiers simultaneously visited 10 other North Korean guard posts. They inspected whether the guard posts and any underground struc-



SOUTH KOREA DEFENSE MINISTRY/AP

South Korean army Col. Yun Myung-shick, right, talks with a North Korean army soldier as he visits to inspect a dismantled North Korean guard post inside the Demilitarized Zone on Wednesday.

tures have been completely dismantled and whether all troops, weapons and other equipment have been withdrawn, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry.

Hours later, seven North Korean soldiers clad in olive-green uniforms crossed the same borderline and were then escorted by South Korean troops to the concrete and steel debris of a destroyed South Korean post. North Korean teams also visited 10 other South Korean sites.

South Korea's liberal president, Moon Jae-in, the driving force behind the current engagement effort, watched parts of the verification broadcast live at an underground bunker in Seoul. Moon called the work "a new milestone" in inter-Korean history that was "unimaginable in the past," according to his office.

North Korean soldiers allowed

South Korean soldiers to use stethoscope-like equipment to inspect whether there were any underground tunnels below the site, South Korean presidential spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom told reporters.

The Demilitarized Zone was originally created as a buffer between the countries at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. But contrary to its name, the DMZ has become the world's most heavily fortified frontier after the rival Koreas planted an estimated 2 million mines, deployed combat troops and heavy weapons and set up layers of barbed wire fences.

When the leaders of the Koreas met in Pyongyang in September, they agreed to lower military tensions along their border, including the withdrawal of some DMZ guard posts, halting live-fire exercises near the border, demilita-

rizing their shared border village of Panmunjom and removing mines at a DMZ area to launch joint searches for Korean War dead.

Conservatives in South Korea have criticized the deals, saying Seoul shouldn't have agreed to such conventional arms reduction programs because North Korea's nuclear threat remains unchanged.

U.S.-led nuclear diplomacy aimed at stripping North Korea of its nuclear program has reported little progress since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump met for a summit in Singapore in June. North Korea has made a vague disarmament pledge, and some experts say the North's turn to diplomacy after last year's string of weapons tests is aimed at weakening U.S.-led sanctions.

Land-based US Aegis intercepts test missile

Associated Press

HONOLULU — The U.S. military's land-based Aegis missile defense system has intercepted an intermediate range ballistic missile in a test near Hawaii. The Missile Defense Agency said Monday's test showed an interceptor missile the military is developing with Japan is ready to be manufactured.

Defense contractor Raytheon says the Standard Missile-3 Block IIA interceptor has larger rocket motors that will allow it to defend broader areas.

An Air Force C-17 launched the target missile. The Navy tracked it and launched an interceptor missile from Kauai.

The U.S. first developed the Aegis ballistic missile defense system for ships and then adapted it for land.

The U.S. has an Aegis Ashore site in Romania and is developing another in Poland.

Japanese navy ships have the Aegis system, and Japan is installing Aegis Ashore.

USAF mascot cleared for flight after prank

Aurora is back in action.

The white gryllon mascot was taken as part of a prank at West Point in early November and suffered a bloodied wing, was medically cleared and performed at Air Force's home football game on Thanksgiving.

West Point officials did not respond to a request for updates in the investigation. An Air Force spokesman had not heard of any punishments handed down from the incident.

Army issued an apology the day after Aurora was taken, saying the "matter is currently under investigation."

From wire reports

DARPA head downplays dangers of current artificial intelligence

By PETER HOLLEY
The Washington Post

Artificial intelligence remains predictable and will have to become far more sophisticated before it poses a serious threat to humans, according to the head of the Defense Advanced Research Agency.

During a recent Q&A with The Washington Post, DARPA Director Steven Walker said AI is still "a very fragile capability," one that has little capacity for acting independently.

"At least in the Defense Department today, we don't see machines doing anything by themselves," he said, noting that agency researchers are intensely focused on building "human-machine" partnerships. "I think we're a long way off from a generalized AI, even in the third wave in what we're pursuing."

"It's not one of those things that keeps me up at night," he added, referring to dan-

gers posed by AI.

Walker's comments arrive amid a backdrop of bitter controversy surrounding the military's use of AI. In June, thousands of Google employees signed a petition protesting the company's role in a Defense Department project using machine intelligence.

Google eventually pulled out of the program that is known as Project Maven, an initiative that uses AI to automatically tag cars, buildings and other objects in videos recorded by drones flying over conflict zones. Google employees accused the military of harnessing AI to kill with greater efficiency, but military leaders claimed the technology would be used to keep military personnel away from unnecessary danger, ultimately saving lives.

"Without a doubt, this has caused a lot of consternation inside the DOD," Robert Work, the former deputy secretary of defense who helped launch Project Maven

last year, said in October. "Google created a big moral hazard for itself by saying it doesn't want to use any of its AI technology to take human life. But they didn't say anything about the lives that could be saved."

Several months after Google's exit from Project Maven, DARPA announced a multi-year investment of more than \$2 billion in programs focused on developing AI.

Adding to the consternation surrounding AI are big-name technologists like Elon Musk and Bill Gates, who have argued — alongside British inventor Clive Sinclair and the late theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking — that humanity is wandering into dangerous territory in its seemingly blind pursuit of AI.

Musk has compared AI to "an immortal dictator" and "the devil," and Hawking said it "could spell the end of the human race."

In his recent remarks, Walker struck a calming tone, arguing that DARPA re-

searchers have found their machines perform "pretty badly" when they're instructed to reason with flexibility, thinking outside the information from large data sets with which they've been trained.

The goal, he said, is not just to give machines the ability to understand what they're looking at in their environment but to give them the ability to adapt to that environment the way a human might.

For example, AI might be able to identify an image of a cat sitting on a suitcase, but the machine still can't understand that the cat could be placed inside the suitcase — and that you probably don't want to do such a thing. Humans, on the other hand, instinctively understand both scenarios.

"How do you give machines that sort of common sense is the next place DARPA is headed," Walker said.

"It's going to be critical if we really want machines to be partners to the humans and not just tools."

NATION

Pelosi stern with Trump, then Dems hear more

By LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In public, Nancy Pelosi lectured Donald Trump on the Constitution and wagged a finger at him for characterizing her “strength.” In private, she questioned his “manhood” — and her disdain for him became public, again, anyway.

“It’s like a manhood thing for him. As if manhood could ever be associated with him. This wall thing,” Pelosi privately told House Democrats after a combative, on-camera Oval Office meeting with Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer. The account was described on condition of anonymity by an aide who was in the room but not authorized to discuss Pelosi’s remarks publicly.

In the space of a few hours Tuesday, the California Democrat nominated for her second stint as House speaker rolled out her approach to the Republican president as the two prepare for two years of divided government.

“It goes to show you: You get into a tinkle contest with a skunk, you get tinkle all over you,” she said after Tuesday’s meeting, according to the aide.

Pelosi is said to frown on truly blue language. But in public and private, she can be unsparring in her clapbacks, and never more so than during the Trump presidency. She questioned Trump’s “manhood” publicly in October at Harvard University’s Institute of Politics, for example. And yet, she’s long counseled Democrats to not get into the muck, Trump-style, advising Democrats before the State of the Union address in January not to get in the way of his “slobbering self.”



EWAN VUCCA/AP

Vice President Mike Pence, center, listens as President Donald Trump meets with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., during a White House meeting Tuesday.

On Tuesday, outside the White House, Pelosi predicted Democrats would stay “dignified.”

Pelosi hardly saved her disdain for Trump for the private audience, letting it rip in slightly more respectful tones a few hours earlier when the president invited journalists into the Oval Office for what were billed as talks over the national budget. What ensued was like a political cage match, with everyone except Pence jumping in with ripostes, setups, lectures and insults. The conflict between Trump and

Pelosi dominated the scene, which was replete with gender politics.

The spectacle suggested a fierce, two-year struggle in which Democrats control one chamber of Congress for the first time in Trump’s presidency. The new Congress is sworn in Jan. 3, and Pelosi is nominated for her second stint as speaker of the House and second in the line of presidential succession. That carries significant stakes for Trump, who faces oversight investigations into his presidential campaign and administration. Additionally, the House will in-

clude a record number of women elected in the #MeToo era — most of them Democrats — injecting gender into the discussion like never before.

In her opening comments in the Oval Office, Pelosi said failed budget talks would result in a “Trump shutdown” of government — a phrase that might have inflamed him. Instead, Trump said he’d take responsibility for any shutting of government.

Trump alluded to the fact that Pelosi’s election as speaker is not assured.

“Nancy’s in a situation where it’s not easy for her to talk right now, and I understand, and I fully understand that,” Trump said.

Pelosi raised a hand, then wagged her index finger. “Mr. President, please don’t characterize the strength that I bring to this meeting as the leader of the House Democrats, who just won a big victory,” she said.

She kept it clean through a post-Oval Office press conference, suggesting to reporters that she didn’t want to embarrass Trump over his misstatement of facts in front of the cameras.

Behind the scenes is another story. Out came her gibe about Trump’s masculinity.

On Tuesday, she told Democrats privately: “He said at the end of the meeting, he said, ‘We can go two routes with this meeting: with a knife or a candy.’ I said, ‘Exactly!’”

She went with the knife.

“I told him about Ronald Reagan,” Pelosi told the Democrats. “I said you probably don’t know who I spoke most about on the campaign trail — what president I spoke most about. He said, ‘Donald Trump.’ I said, ‘I never mentioned your name.’”

Later in private, she told the Democrats: “I was trying to be the mom.”

Ex-Trump lawyer Cohen gets 3 years in prison

By LARRY NEUMEISTER and TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump’s once-devoted lawyer and all-around fixer, was sentenced Wednesday to three years in prison for allowing what he said was his “blind loyalty” to Trump to lead him astray.

“I felt it was my duty to cover up his dirty deeds,” he said.

Standing alone at the defense table, Cohen, 52, shook his head slightly and closed his eyes as the judge pronounced the sentence for crimes that included lying about his boss’ business dealings in Russia and funneling hush money to two women who said they had sex with Trump — payments that Cohen said were made at the president’s direction.

U.S. District Judge William H. Pauley III said Cohen deserved modest credit for his decision over the summer to admit guilt and cooperate in the federal investigation of efforts by Russians to influence the 2016 presidential election, but his assistance “does not wipe the slate clean.”

Somewhere along the way Mr. Cohen appears to have lost his moral compass,” the judge said. “As a lawyer, Mr. Cohen should have known better.”

The sentence was in line with what federal prosecutors asked for. Sentencing guidelines called for around four to five years behind bars, and the government asked in court papers that Cohen be given only a slight break. He was ordered to surrender

March 6 and left court without comment.

“It was my blind loyalty to this man that led me to take a path of darkness instead of light,” Cohen, a man who once boasted he would “take a bullet” for Trump, told the judge before the sentence came down. “I felt it was my duty to cover up his dirty deeds.”

Cohen got choked up near the end of his remarks and paused briefly to compose himself. His daughter, seated behind him, sobbed throughout. As he returned to his seat, he ran his hand across her cheek.

Cohen’s lawyers had argued for leniency, saying he decided to cooperate with investigators rather than hold out for a possible pardon.

“He came forward to offer evidence against the most powerful person in our country,” defense attorney Guy Pettrillo told the judge.

Cohen pleaded guilty in August to evading \$1.4 million in taxes related to his personal businesses. In the part of the case with greater political repercussions, he also admitted breaking campaign finance laws in arranging payments in the waning days of the 2016 election to porn star Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal.

Cohen is the first — and so far, only — member of Trump’s circle during two years of investigations to go into open court and implicate the president in a crime, though whether a president can be prosecuted under the Constitution is an open question.

Seeking leniency, Flynn lawyers deem lie to FBI ‘uncharacteristic’

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawyers for President Donald Trump’s former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, are asking a judge to spare him prison time, saying he had devoted his career to his country and taken responsibility for an “uncharacteristic error in judgment.”

The arguments to the judge Tuesday echoed those of special counsel Robert Mueller’s office, which last week said Flynn’s cooperation — including 19 meetings with investigators — was so extensive that he was entitled to avoid a prison sentence.

“Having made a serious error in judgment, for which he has shown true contrition, he recognized it was consistent with the values by which he has led his life simply to provide the facts to those charged with enforcing our laws,” his lawyers wrote in requesting probation and community service. “On the day he entered his guilty plea, he said he was ‘working to set things right.’ He has done so.”

Flynn, who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about conversations during the presidential transition period with the then-Russian ambassador to the United States, will next week become the first White House official punished in the special counsel’s ongoing probe into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia during the 2016 presidential election.

Flynn’s absence from the public eye has made him a source of continuing intrigue. His sentencing has the makings of a bookend moment for the investigation given that Flynn — a visible presence on the campaign trail, in high-level transition

talks and in the chaotic early days of the administration — was an early, and pivotal, part of the case who appeared to enjoy the president’s sympathy even after his departure from the White House.

Central to the investigation are Flynn’s December 2016 phone discussions of Obama administration sanctions with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, conversations that triggered intelligence community alarms and led to his ouster from the administration after officials said he had lied to them about the communications.

They also led to a follow-up call with Kislyak in which the ambassador said Flynn denied having discouraged Kislyak from an aggressive response to the sanctions, which had been imposed on the Kremlin for election interference that U.S. officials have said was aimed at helping Trump win office. He also told the FBI he had no recollection of a follow-up call with Kislyak in which the ambassador said Russia would moderate its response to the sanctions.

Tuesday’s defense filing did not contain new information about Flynn’s cooperation or provide a full explanation for why he made false statements to investigators. But it did provide additional details about the backdrop of his FBI interview, including that unlike other defendants in the Russia probe, he wasn’t warned in advance that it was a crime to lie to the FBI.

The filing stops short of saying FBI agents were looking to trap Flynn but it does highlight that they went into the interview with a plan not to correct him if he strayed from what they knew of his calls with Kislyak.

NATION

Congressman: Trump wall talk breaks promise

Lawmaker says US-Mexico border issue should not affect military budget

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Rep. Adam Smith, who's expected to take over as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee next month, said President Donald Trump is breaking his single biggest campaign promise by threatening to use the military to build a U.S.-Mexico border wall.

Smith, D-Wash., who made the comments during a breakfast meeting with reporters on Wednesday, said there's also bipartisan support to stop Trump from using military funds or servicemembers to build the wall by installing such a provision into future defense spending legislation.

Smith, the ranking Democrat for the armed services committee, also highlighted that of the \$1.6 billion directed to border security funding in last year's budget, only 6 percent has been spent.

Trump's border "rhetoric is designed to use fear," the lawmaker told reporters attending a roundtable discussion at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington. "Our troops are not needed to secure the border."

Smith also said Trump has misled the American public by breaking his promise that Mexico, not the United States, would pay for the building of the southern border wall.

Now, Trump is threatening a partial government shutdown when funding runs out Dec. 21 as part of his ongoing demands for \$5 billion for a border wall. About 25 percent of the government could be affected by a shutdown, though that does not include the Defense Department. The move could force furloughs, however, for the departments of Homeland Security, Justice and others.

Trump's "single biggest campaign promise was we wouldn't pay for it," Smith said. So "why in the name of God are we shutting down the U.S. government because we won't pay for it? Why is he breaking his promise?"

During his comments, Smith also said the military is facing an unrealistic set of demands driving interests for a massive defense budget for fiscal year 2020.

"We've got too many mission, we've got too much we are trying to do," he said.

However, Smith said he has

no interest in cutting funding for readiness.

Though the Defense Department budget is set for late into 2019, its next spending plan remains a moving target. With a split Congress angling for different budget priorities next year, it could insert a new level of drama for the fiscal 2020 budget.



Smith

The process for building the 2020 budget, which begins Oct. 1, 2019, was also thrown into confusion this fall when Trump suggested a 4.7 percent slash in spending for the Defense Department to \$700 billion.

Smith on Wednesday suggested coming up with a more realistic figure in light of the escalating U.S. deficit and debt and impossible list of demands for the military.

"What's the overall number going to be?" he asked. "We are going to have to have other priorities in addition to defense."

The Trump administration had originally projected a \$733 billion spending plan for 2020.

There are still plenty of obstacles to overcome before lawmakers can reach a spending deal. When lawmakers return for a new congressional session in January, with Democrats in control of the House, they will need to address spending caps slated to return in 2020 under the Budget Control Act.

The spending cap is slated to decrease the defense budget to \$576 billion for 2020 if no action is taken.

During his comments, Smith also said that after Democrats take control of the House they can work to ensure the military can be more inclusive, such as helping fight Trump demands to bar transgender individuals from serving.

He also lauded efforts to ban U.S. aid to Saudi Arabia in its ongoing war in Yemen, saying while a Senate move to approve a resolution Wednesday to that effect may not change the situation there, it will raise pressure on the Trump administration to rethink its strategy in the war-torn nation.

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SUSAN WALSH/AP

First lady Melania Trump gets a hug Tuesday from a child during a Toys for Tots event at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington.

First lady helps at Toys for Tots event at base in Washington

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Melania Trump highlighted the spirit of giving Tuesday by sorting toys and making Christmas cards for an annual toy drive held by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

The first lady said she had been looking forward to the Toys for Tots event all year. The charity collects new toys and distributes them to needy children at Christmas.

"I have been looking forward to this event ever since last year's ended," Trump said. "As a mother, I feel children are the most precious gift of all. They provide so much joy in life."

She added that her "mission" as first lady is to "shine a light" on programs that provide children with opportunities to succeed.

"I believe in the good work that

Toys for Tots is doing," the first lady said.

Dozens of children from military families joined her at a Washington-area military base to sort scores of toys, including dolls, cars, games, stuffed animals and other gifts, into boxes labeled "Girls" and "Boys." The job lasted a few minutes and then everyone sat down to make Christmas cards.

The first lady was seen drawing a snowman on her piece of construction paper.

The White House said Trump was donating 100 books to a companion Toys for Tots literacy program. She also gave the children coloring books and White House candies stashed inside white tote bags labeled "Be Best" — the name of her child welfare initiative — and delivered by Santa Claus.

Retired Lt. Gen. Henry Osman,

president and CEO of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, said there's greater demand for toys this year after the devastating California wildfires and hurricanes in Florida and the Carolinas. Osman said the foundation would meet the demand through the generosity of the American people and the work of the Marines and their thousands of volunteers.



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NATION



SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Google CEO Sundar Pichai appears before the House Judiciary Committee to be questioned about the internet giant's privacy security and data collection on Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday.

Congress grills Google CEO

Lawmakers' queries show issues facing tech companies

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AND MARCY GORDON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. lawmakers' grilling of Google CEO Sundar Pichai may have sounded like a broken record, but it amplified the prickly issues facing tech companies as Democrats prepare to take control of the House next month.

The 3½-hour hearing Tuesday hit upon familiar themes — online privacy, data protection and the danger of digital monopolies — that are poised to come into even sharper focus next year.

Some of the hurdles that Google parent Alphabet Inc., Facebook, Amazon and other tech companies are likely to face when the 116th Congress convenes include user privacy, bias, China and antitrust worries.

Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, tried to pin down Pichai on privacy during Tuesday's hearing. "I've got an iPhone," Poe said, waving his device. "Can Google track me when I move?" If he moved to the left toward his Democratic colleagues on the panel, would Google know?

"Not by default," Pichai answered. Poe demanded a yes or no answer, but Pichai indicated it was complicated.

Other lawmakers questioned whether regular people know how much data Google can collect about them and how to stop being tracked. Privacy is also a huge issue for Facebook, which has spent nearly a year trying to recover from the Cambridge Analytica data mining scandal.

Lawmakers from both parties seem determined

to re-examine whether Google rigs its search results to promote its own services and its own political agenda too.

European regulators already have concluded Google manipulated its search engine to gain an unfair advantage over other online shopping sites in the lucrative e-commerce market, and fined the company \$2.8 billion.

Lawmakers on both sides peppered Pichai with questions about the possibility that Google is considering offering a censored search engine in China after pulling out of that country in 2010 in a high-profile dispute with its communist government's policies.

While Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee grilled Pichai on what they perceive as bias against conservatives, top committee Democrat Jerrold Nadler said lawmakers should instead examine issues such as the spread of misinformation online and Russian efforts to influence U.S. elections online.

Governments around the world are becoming increasingly unnerved by the power being amassed by major technology companies — with the dominance of Facebook in social networking, Google in search and Amazon in e-commerce raising the most concerns.

That has raised the specter that President Donald Trump and Congress might turn up the heat on antitrust regulators to get them to investigate whether consumers and the economy as a whole need to be protected from those companies. In the most dramatic scenario, a case might be made for breaking the companies into smaller pieces.

Magnitude 4.4 earthquake jolts Tennessee

Associated Press

DECATUR, Tenn. — Engineers are inspecting the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in Tennessee as a precaution after a magnitude 4.4 earthquake struck nearby.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the earthquake struck eastern Tennessee and was felt

in Atlanta.

The light earthquake occurred Wednesday around 4:14 a.m. about 7 miles northeast of Decatur. About 13 minutes later, a 3.3 magnitude aftershock struck.

The Tennessee Valley Authority says the nuclear plant didn't appear to be affected and was

continuing to operate safely.

According to the USGS, the Eastern Tennessee seismic zone is one of the most active earthquake areas in the Southeast. The zone extends across parts of Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama.

There didn't appear to be any immediate reports of injuries.

Judge tells Daniels to pay Trump's fees

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Porn star Stormy Daniels must pay President Donald Trump nearly \$293,000 for his attorneys' fees and another \$1,000 in sanctions after her defamation suit against him was dismissed, a federal judge in Los Angeles ordered Tuesday.

Trump's attorney, Charles Harder, had requested nearly \$390,000 in fees and an equal amount in sanctions as a deterrent against a "repeat filer of frivolous defamation cases."

Judge S. James Otero cut the requested legal fees by 25 percent and awarded just \$1,000 in sanctions.

Otero previously noted that fees by Harder's firm — as high as \$840 an hour — were reasonable but the 580 hours spent on

the case appeared excessive.

Daniels alleges she had an affair with Trump in 2006 and was paid \$130,000 as part of a nondisclosure agreement days before the 2016 presidential election. She sued him for defamation after he dismissed her claims of being threatened to keep quiet as a "total con job." The judge threw out the case in October.

Daniels' attorney, Michael Avenatti, tweeted Tuesday's order "will never hold up on appeal."

In a statement he predicted Daniels "will never have to pay a dime" because she will receive far more — \$1 million — from Trump for attorneys' fees and other costs related to a separate lawsuit Daniels brought in Los Angeles over the nondisclosure agreement.



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Nearly 70 former judges sent a letter to acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Ronald Vitiello shown at an event in August in Washington, calling for immigration officials to stop arresting suspected illegal immigrants at courthouses.

Ex-judges to ICE: Stop arrests at courthouses

Associated Press

BOSTON — Dozens of retired state and federal judges on Wednesday called on U.S. immigration officials to stop making arrests at courthouses of people suspected of being in the country illegally, saying immigrants should be free to visit halls of justice without fearing they will be detained.

Nearly 70 former judges from 23 states — including federal judges and state supreme court justices — said in a letter sent to acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Ronald Vitiello that courthouse arrests are disrupting the criminal justice system.

"I just can't imagine that we are closing our courtrooms to people who have a right to be there. And you really are closing them if you

instill fear in people so they cannot come near a courtroom," said Fernande R.V. Duffly, who was born in Indonesia to Dutch and Chinese parents and served as an associate justice on Massachusetts' highest court until 2016.

The judges are urging Vitiello to add courthouses to the list of so-called "sensitive locations" that are generally free from immigration enforcement, like schools and places of worship. They say that only "unequivocal guarantees and protections will restore the public's confidence that it can safely pursue justice in our nation's courts."

The Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School helped organize the letter, whose signers include judges appointed by both Democratic and Republican governors.

NATION

Fire official: Calif. must mull home ban in certain areas

By DON THOMPSON

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California's increasingly deadly and destructive wildfires have become so unpredictable that government officials should consider banning home construction in vulnerable areas, the state's top firefighter said.

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Director Ken Pimlott will leave his job Friday after 30 years with the agency. In an interview with The Associated Press, he said government and citizens must act differently to protect lives and property from fires that now routinely threaten large populations.

That may mean rethinking subdivisions in thickly forested mountainous areas or homes along Southern California canyons lined with tinder-dry chaparral. Yet Los Angeles County supervisors stung by California's housing shortage approved a massive rural housing development Tuesday despite the fire danger.

Developers said the 19,000-home community in rugged mountains 65 miles north of downtown is struggling to keep pace, with the goal to minimize fire hazards with anti-ember construction and

‘Folks can say what they want to say, but firefighters are living climate change. It's staring them in the face every day.’

Ken Pimlott

director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

buffers around homes. It would include four new fire stations and roads wide enough to help people evacuate from an area the state has designated as a “high” and “very high” fire hazard zone.

Faced with such dangers, California residents should train themselves to respond more quickly to warnings and make preparations to shelter in place if they can't outrun the flames, Pimlott said.

Communities in fire zones need to harden key buildings with fireproof construction similar to the way cities prepare for earthquakes, hurricanes or tornadoes, and should prepare commercial or public buildings to withstand fires with the expectation hundreds may shelter there as they did in makeshift fashion when flames last month largely destroyed the Sierra Nevada foothills city of Paradise in Northern California.

California already has the nation's most robust building requirement programs for new homes in fire-prone areas, but recent fire seasons underscore more is needed. Officials must consider prohibiting construction in particularly vulnerable areas, said Pimlott, who has led the agency through the last eight years under termed-out Gov. Jerry Brown.

After a crippling drought, the last two years have seen the worst fires in state history. November's fire in the northern California town of Paradise was the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century, killing at least 85 people and destroying nearly 14,000 homes.

A year earlier, a fire that ripped through the San Francisco Bay Area city of Santa Rosa killed 22 people and destroyed more than 5,000 homes and other structures.

In response, the state is doing



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Ken Pimlott, director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, is urging officials to consider banning construction in fire-prone areas.

more planned burning to eliminate brush and dead trees that serve as fuels for wildfires. The state will also add seven large firefighting aircraft, replace a dozen aging helicopters, provide firefighter counseling and ensure that firefighters have enough time off for medical checkups to help them manage the mental and physical stress from a fire season that now never ends.

Pimlott said he has seen fire conditions worsen each passing year during his three decades with the agency, taking its toll on residents and firefighters alike.

“Folks can say what they want

to say, but firefighters are living climate change. It's staring them in the face every day,” he said.

To adapt, he advocates wildfire warning systems that not only use new technology such as automated phone calling systems, but maybe restoring civil defense-style emergency sirens in some areas.

“The reality of it is, California has a fire-prone climate and it will continue to burn,” he said. “Fire is a way of life in California and we have to learn how to live with it; we have to learn how to have more resilient communities.”

Mild winters, more people fuel DC's spiraling rat infestation

By ASHRAF KHALIL

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Andre Pittman and Gregory Cornes are on a mission to rid Washington of opportunistic vermin.

But their target isn't corrupt officials or shady political fixers; it's *Rattus Norvegicus*, the common Norway Rat.

The nation's capital is facing a spiraling rat infestation, fueled by mild winters and a human population boom. Washington's government is struggling to keep pace, with the pest control department fielding a record number of calls.

On one recent day, Pittman and Cornes, both veteran Health Department employees, are working within sight of the Capitol, shoveling dry ice pellets into suspected rat burrow entrances. On another, they're summoned about six blocks north of the White House, at 16th Street and M, where residents have complained of an outbreak.

“Rats adapt to everything. They can be like geniuses,” Pittman said.

On the grounds of a church, they poke around, expertly spotting telltale holes and matted dirt trails that signal rat burrows. Cornes uses an instrument like an extralung Super Soaker to inject poison into the hole while Pittman watches to see if the white powder puffs up from other holes and then shovels dirt to block those exits.

The pest control company Orkin ranks Washington as America's fourth “Rattiest City,” based on the number of new service calls per year. That's up one spot from the previous year and just behind Los Angeles and New York. Chicago has been ranked No. 1 for four consecutive years.



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALS/AP

Pest Control Officer Gregory Cornes, left, uses a hand trowel to scoop dry ice before dropping it directly into rat burrows as his co-worker, Curtis Redman, assists near the Capitol building in Washington on Nov. 21.

While D.C. doesn't boast the subway monsters famous in New York, anecdotal evidence is piling up that the rodents are on the march. In September, a viral video showed security camera footage of a rat pulling a fire alarm, forcing the evacuation of an apartment building.

Gerard Brown, head of Washington's rodent control department, said a string of gentle winters has enabled the rodents to breed constantly. The harsh winters don't necessarily kill off the rats. Most Norway

rats live only about eight months, and they stay warm by burrowing underground or chewing their way into basements. But an extended freeze would choke off their food supply, which limits the rodents' prodigious breeding. A mature female rat can give birth to one litter per month, with an average of 10 babies per litter.

Washington is also in the midst of a gentrification-fueled economic and population boom. The District's population just passed 700,000 — more than Vermont and Wy-

oming. Brown said the number of restaurants, bars and coffee shops has increased by 25 percent in two years.

“More people with more money means more restaurants, which means more garbage, which means more rat food,” Brown said.

Rats love waterfront areas, and part of Washington's gentrification boom has focused on the Navy Yards or the new Wharf Marina — presenting the ultimate rodent attraction of a flourishing waterfront restaurant scene.

This isn't Washington's first war on rats. Former Mayor Anthony Williams referenced rat problems in his inauguration speech in 1999. Back in 1967, a rat gnawing on power station wires knocked out electricity for nearly an hour in about a third of Washington.

This time, Mayor Muriel Bowser has allocated an extra \$900,000 to boost rodent control efforts and increase staffing. The government is also offering financial assistance and incentives for restaurants to buy mini-trash compactors that fit in urban alleyways and limit the rats' access to food.

As urban rodentologist Robert Corrigan puts it, “Eighty percent of any rat control campaign is actually refuse management.” Corrigan, not a fan of amateurs handling poisons, says the dry ice method (it suffocates them in their burrows) is safe for homeowners to use. He also recommends that residents spray trash bins with a mix of water and 10 percent bleach.

Beyond that, the only real solution is the hardest part of the equation — controlling human behavior.

WORLD

France names suspected gunman in shooting

By LORI HINNANT,
SYLVIE CORBET
AND JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press

STRASBOURG, France — A massive manhunt involving hundreds of police and soldiers was underway Wednesday for a suspected extremist who yelled “God is great!” in Arabic during a shooting spree around one of Europe’s most famous Christmas markets. The assault in the eastern French city of Strasbourg killed two, left one person brain dead and injured 12 others, authorities said.

Police union officials identified the suspected assailant as Frenchman Cherif Chekatt, a 29-year-old with a thick police record for crimes including armed robbery and monitored as a suspected religious radical by the French intelligence services. The two officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to publicly discuss details of the large and ongoing investigation into the attack that set France on edge anew.

The suspect’s parents and two brothers, also known for radicalism, have been detained, according to a judicial official.

Reflecting Strasbourg’s international nature, the dead included a Thai tourist, and an Italian was reportedly among the wounded. The U.S. government, among others, warned citizens in the area to be vigilant. The city is home to the European Parliament and considers itself a capital of Europe — and promotes itself as the “capital of Christmas.”

Some 720 members of the security forces were hunting for the suspected gunman Wednesday. Prosecutor Remy Heitz said the suspect was shot in the arm during an exchange of fire with French soldiers during his rampage in the city center on Tuesday. He then took a taxi to another part of the city, boasting of the attack to the driver. There, he exchanged more gunfire with police and disappeared.



JEAN FRANCOIS BADIAS/AP

French police officers patrol on Wednesday next to Notre-Dame cathedral in Strasbourg following a shooting Tuesday that killed two people, left one brain dead and wounded 12 others.

Heitz said the man attacked his victims with a handgun and a knife. Previously, French authorities had said the assailant killed three people, but Heitz said two people were confirmed dead while the third was brain dead. A further 12 people were injured, six of them gravely.

Witnesses described shots and screams after the gunman opened fire around the Christmas market Tuesday evening. They also reported that the assailant yelled “God is great!” in Arabic during the attack, the prosecutor added. For several hours swaths of the city were under lockdown.

Senior Interior Ministry official Laurent Nunez said the suspect had been radicalized in prison and had been monitored by French intelligence services since his release in late 2015 be-

cause of his suspected religious extremism.

Nunez said on France-Inter radio that police sought to arrest the man on Tuesday morning, hours before the shooting, in relation to an attempted murder. He was not at home but five other people were detained, authorities said.

Heitz said police seized a grenade, a rifle and knives during the operation.

The government raised the security alert level and sent police reinforcements to Strasbourg, where hundreds of police and soldiers were involved in the search.

The suspected attacker’s more than two dozen convictions also included crimes in Germany and Switzerland, according to court documents seen by The Associated Press.

US troops told to check in after deadly attack

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. military commands in Europe were accounting for personnel Wednesday after a suspected terrorist attack on a Christmas market in Strasbourg, but so far there was no sign that any members of the American military community were caught in the crossfire.

On Tuesday night, a gunman opened fire at the Strasbourg Christmas market, killing two people, leaving another brain dead and injuring at least a dozen others. The market, which is near France’s border with Germany, is a popular destination for Americans at nearby military bases. Ramstein Air Base and other large command posts posted notices on their social media accounts calling for personnel to check in with their command chains.

U.S. European Command said it has received no reports indicating that any U.S. personnel were in the area or affected by the attack. EUCOM said it is urging members of the military community to maintain their vigilance, but the command added it is not issuing any new travel restrictions.

Still, U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz’s recreation department canceled all remaining trips to France this month and is offering refunds. Ramstein Air Base’s sponsored trips to France have been canceled until further notice, and officials there urged personnel to “carefully evaluate” their travel plans following the Strasbourg shooting and ongoing political protests throughout the country.

There are about 65,000 U.S. active-duty servicemembers in Europe, with roughly half based in Germany.

After the attack, Germany tightened security at its borders while French authorities launched a manhunt for the suspect. Authorities said the 29-year-old suspect was already known to law enforcement as a possible terrorist threat. Grenades were found at the suspect’s apartment, French media reported.

The U.S. Embassy in Berlin has issued a warning to Americans in Germany, urging visitors to be vigilant when visiting a Christmas market.

“Extremists continue to focus on tourist locations such as Christmas holiday markets, shopping malls, airports, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, transportation hubs, and other soft targets frequented by Westerners,” the Embassy said in a travel alert last week.

Meanwhile, security at Christmas markets in France was expected to be increased.

There has been widespread worry in recent years about security at Christmas markets, which are soft targets for terrorists. Heavily armed police have become fixtures at the popular sites in France and Germany.

In 2016, a terrorist drove a truck into Berlin’s Christmas market, killing 12 people and injuring more than 50 others. Since then, barricades and guardrails have been put in place at numerous market locations to block traffic.

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China mum on detained Canadian; questions employer’s status

Associated Press

BEIJING — China’s Foreign Ministry denied knowledge Wednesday of the detention of a former Canadian diplomat but said the organization he was working for, the International Crisis Group, is not registered in China and so any of its work in the country would be illegal.

Once its staff became engaged in activities in China, it has already violated the law,” ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a daily news briefing when asked about the case of Michael Kovrig, a Hong Kong-based analyst whose employer said he was taken into custody Monday night by the Beijing Bureau of Chinese State Security.

“I do not have information to provide you here,” Lu said about Kovrig, who previously worked as a Canadian diplomat in China and elsewhere. “If there is such a thing, please do not worry; it is assured that China’s relevant departments will definitely

handle it according to law.”

Chinese law makes it extremely difficult for foreign nongovernmental organizations to register because they have to find a local sponsor, said James Zimmerman, a lawyer in Beijing and former chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China.

“In my view [Kovrig’s custody] is purely for strategic reasons,” Zimmerman told The Associated Press.

Kovrig’s detention came after Canada detained a top executive of network gear and cellphone supplier Huawei Technologies on Dec. 1 while she was changing planes in Vancouver.

Many Chinese citizens were rejoicing Wednesday over a Canadian court’s decision to release on bail Huawei’s chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou.

Canadian authorities detained Meng at the request of the U.S., which accuses Huawei of using a Hong Kong shell company to

sell equipment to Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. It alleges that Meng and Huawei misled banks about the company’s business dealings in Iran.

After three days of hearings, a British Columbia justice on Tuesday granted bail of \$7.5 million, but required Meng to wear an ankle bracelet, surrender her passports, stay in the Vancouver area and confine herself to one of her two homes in the city from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Her case drew an outpouring of support on social media for her and her company, which is based in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen.

Meng has denied the U.S. allegations through her lawyer in court, promising to fight them if she is extradited to face charges in the United States.

“As we have stressed all along, Huawei complies with all applicable laws and regulations in the countries and regions where we operate, including export control and

sanction laws of the U.N., U.S., and EU,” Huawei said in a statement. “We look forward to a timely resolution to this matter.”

While Meng’s release on bail was front-page news in China, most media have not reported Kovrig’s detention. An exception was the Global Times, an outspoken Communist Party newspaper that cited foreign media reports of his arrest.

Li Mu, a real estate engineer in Beijing, said he found the detention hard to believe.

“We’ve only heard that he was detained, but we know nothing about the reason,” he said. “I think we need more information transparency. One has to be detained for a reason.”

Rob Malley, president of Brussels-based International Crisis Group, said he thinks Kovrig was in Beijing on a personal trip and definitely not for any illegal purpose or any reason that would undermine China’s national security.

WORLD

May in fight for her job

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — A planned no-confidence vote in British Prime Minister Theresa May on Wednesday threw U.K. politics deeper into chaos and Brexit further into doubt.

May vowed to fight for leadership of her party and the country “with everything I’ve got” after opponents who have been circling for weeks finally got the numbers they needed to spark a vote among Conservative Party lawmakers.

The threat to May has been building as pro-Brexit lawmakers within the Conservative Party grew increasingly frustrated with May’s conduct of Brexit and the divorce deal she has agreed on with the European Union.

The challenge throws Britain’s already rocky path out of the EU, which it is due to leave in March, into further chaos and comes days after May postponed a vote to approve the divorce deal to avoid all-but-certain defeat.

Many supporters of Brexit say May’s deal, a compromise that retains close economic ties with the EU, fails to deliver on the clean break with the bloc that they want.

Former Environment Secretary Owen Paterson accused May of acting like a “supplacant” in dealings with the EU.

“She’s not the person to see Brexit through,” he said.

Leading pro-Brexit legislators Jacob Rees-Mogg and Steve



TIM IRELAND/AP

British Prime Minister Theresa May leaves No. 10 Downing St. to attend the weekly Prime Ministers' Questions session Wednesday at Parliament in London. May has confirmed there was to be a vote of confidence in her leadership of the Conservative Party on Wednesday evening.

Baker said in a joint statement that “in the national interest, she must go.”

But in a defiant statement outside No. 10 Downing St., May said “a change of leadership in the Conservative Party now will put our country’s future at risk.”

She said ousting her and holding a leadership vote — a process that could take weeks — could result in Brexit being delayed or even stopped.

May, who spent Tuesday touring EU capitals to appeal for changes to sweeten the divorce deal for reluctant U.K. lawmakers, has until Jan. 21 to hold a vote on her deal in Parliament, a timetable that could be scuttled if she is ousted.

On Wednesday morning Graham Brady, who heads a committee overseeing Conservative leadership contests, said he had received letters from at least

48 lawmakers asking for a vote. That’s the 15 percent of Conservative legislators needed to spark a vote under party rules.

Brady said the vote would be held in Parliament between 6 and 8 p.m. Wednesday evening, with the results announced soon after.

If she loses the confidence vote, May must step down and there will be a contest to choose a new Conservative leader. She will remain leader, and prime minister, until the successor is picked. If she wins, she can’t be challenged again for a year.

Brady said that the party aimed to finish the first stage of any leadership contest — in which lawmakers vote to whittle down the field of contenders to two — before Parliament breaks for Christmas on Dec. 20. The final two contenders would then be put to the nationwide party membership in a postal ballot.

May canceled a Wednesday trip to Dublin to meet Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar in order to stay in London and battle for lawmakers’ support. She planned to address backbench lawmakers just before the leadership ballot opens.

If all Tory lawmakers cast ballots, May needs 158 votes to win, though a narrow victory could leave her weakened and under pressure to resign. But allies said May would stay in post even if she secured a wafer-thin win.

“I think she needs to win by one,” said International Trade Secretary Liam Fox.

Several leading Brexiteers, including former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and ex-Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab, have said loudly that they think they could get a better deal with the EU, and are likely to enter a race to replace her.

Turkey to launch new Syria offensive

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey will launch a new military operation against U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters in Syria “within a few days,” President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday, a move that is likely to further strain ties between NATO allies Turkey and the United States.

In recent months Turkey has shelled Kurdish positions across the border in Syria, east of the Euphrates River, and has threatened to drive out the Syrian Kurdish militia known as the People’s Protection Units, or YPG.

The YPG is the main component of a Kurdish-led militia that rolled back Islamic State with the help of the U.S.-led coalition. Ankara views the YPG as terrorists because of their links to the Kurdish insurgency inside Turkey.

U.S. troops are deployed with the Kurdish fighters in northeastern Syria, in part to prevent clashes with Turkey.

“We will begin our operation to rescue the east of the Euphrates (river) from the separatist organization within a few days,” Erdogan said. “Our target is not the American soldiers; it is terror organizations that are active in the region.”

He called on the United States not to allow “deep” disagreements over Syria policy to impede future cooperation between the two countries.

Turkey has been incensed by American support for the Kurdish-led forces.

More recently, it has been frustrated by delays in the implementation of an agreement that was reached between Washington and Ankara that would effectively push the Kurdish militia out of the key northern Syrian town of Manbij, west of the Euphrates.

“They are not being honest; they are still not removing terrorists (from Manbij),” Erdogan said. “Therefore we will do it.”

Erdogan’s statement, at an address to a defense industry meeting, follows U.S. moves to set up observation posts in northern Syria despite Turkey’s objections. Turkey says the observation posts are aimed at protecting the YPG.

“We know that the aim of the radar and observation posts set up by the United States (east of the Euphrates) is not to protect our country from terrorists, but to protect the terrorists from Turkey,” Erdogan said.

But Pentagon officials contend the posts were established to address Turkey’s security concerns.

“We take Turkish security concerns seriously, and we are committed to coordinating our efforts with Turkey to bring stability to northeastern Syria,” Pentagon spokesperson Col. Rob Manning said Tuesday.

Pope cuts 3 cardinals from his Cabinet

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has removed three cardinals from his informal Cabinet, two of whom have been implicated in the Catholic Church’s sex abuse and cover-up scandal.

The Vatican said Wednesday that Francis in October had written to Chilean Cardinal Javier Errazuriz, Australian Cardinal George Pell and Congolese Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo Pasini thanking them for their five years of service on the so-called Group of Nine, or C-9.

Errazuriz has been accused by Chilean abuse survivors of having covered up for predator priests while he was archbishop of Santiago, a charge he has denied. Pell took leave from his job as the Vatican’s economy minister to stand trial in his native Australia on historic charges of sex abuse, which he denies.

From The Associated Press

US irks Pakistan with religious freedom move

By MUNIR AHMED
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan on Wednesday condemned a U.S. decision to add it to a list of nations that infringe on religious freedom, calling the move “unilateral and politically motivated.”

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo added Pakistan to the U.S. list of “countries of particular concern” regarding protection for people to worship according to their beliefs.

It was previously on a special watch list. The downgrade would expose Pakistan to potential American sanctions, but Pompeo waived those penalties, citing U.S. national interests.

The Foreign Ministry condemned the move, saying Pakistan is a “multi-religious and pluralistic society where people of diverse faiths and denominations live together.”

In recent years Islamic extremists have repeatedly attacked religious minorities in Pakistan, including Shiite Muslims and Christians. Members of the Ahmadi sect face heavy discrimination and are subject to restrictions stemming from a 1984 law that forbids them from “posing as Muslims.”

The U.S. said the decision to downgrade Pakistan was largely the result of a law that prescribes death for blasphemy against Islam. The mere rumor of in-

sulting Islam can spark lynchings in Pakistan.

In October, Pakistan’s Supreme Court acquitted Asia Bibi, a Christian woman who had been on death row for eight years after being convicted of insulting the Prophet Muhammad, charges she denied. The court upheld the blasphemy law but said there was not enough evidence to convict her.

Her release sparked days of mass protests and violence by religious hard-liners who vowed to kill her. She is under tight security at an undisclosed location and is expected to seek asylum in another country.

Authorities arrested Khadim Hussein Rizvi, the cleric behind the protests, in November.

Pakistan said the U.S. decision was biased, adding that there were “serious questions on the credentials and impartiality of the self-proclaimed jury involved in this unwarranted exercise.”

The ministry said an independent National Commission on Human Rights addressed concerns over violations of minority rights and that successive governments in the Muslim-majority nation had made the protection of minorities a priority.

“Pakistan does not need counsel by any individual country how to protect the rights of its minorities,” it said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Bowler, 105, still looks to improve his game

NY WEBSTER — A western New York man who has been bowling for more than 90 years says he's still trying to improve his game as he turns 105 years old.

Tom Pisano bowls in the Monday and Wednesday leagues at AMF Empire Lanes in Webster, a Rochester suburb. Pisano, who turned 105 on Wednesday, celebrated his birthday with his Monday league friends.

League organizer Brad Larson said Pisano also stops by a couple of other times a week to bowl additional games. Larson said Pisano averages around 135 per game.

Pisano, whose wife is also over 100 years old, said he bowls for the exercise.

Family seeks grinch who stole Grinch costume

MT KALISPELL — A Montana family was looking for a grinch who stole a custom-made Grinch holiday costume.

The Daily Inter Lake reported the costume, inspired by the Dr. Seuss classic story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," was last seen before the Kalispell Christmas parade on Saturday.

Kalispell resident Tiffany Floden and her mother, Denise Robertson, made the costume. Floden believes it was stolen sometime between Saturday night and Sunday morning. 1

In addition to the costume, two projector lights in red and white, masks and an oversized Hershey Kiss that was meant to be a giveaway are also missing. Floden estimated the loss at \$863.

Bar chain to stop using 'Crack Fries' name

MI GRAND RAPIDS — A Michigan-based bar and restaurant chain plans to change the name of its "Crack Fries" in January to distance itself from a name associated with a drug epidemic.

A post on HopCat's website by BarFly Ventures CEO Mark Gray said the recipe and ingredients of its seasoned fries will stay the same. He notes, however, the company's "vision for creating an inclusive community ... is not compatible with the old name."

A new name will be announced later.

Gray said HopCat picked the "Crack Fries" name more than a decade ago.

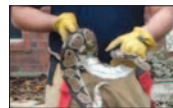
Police: Party for county employees turns violent

NM SANTA FE — Police said a Christmas party for county employees in New Mexico turned violent after an attendee punched a deputy in the nose and struck a radio dispatcher.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reported the alcohol-infused melee took place Sunday at a Santa Fe hotel following a holiday party for Santa Fe County employees that resulted in a battery complaint against a facilities operation maintenance manager.

THE CENSUS

100 The approximate number of snakes firefighters in Texas rescued from a reptile-filled home that caught fire over the weekend. Authorities said a Christmas tree may have sparked the blaze Saturday near Conroe, about 40 miles north of Houston. The snakes included pythons and boa constrictors. Authorities said that when firefighters arrived, they discovered a second-floor bedroom full of snakes and lizards. Houston TV station KTRK reported that the homeowners weren't at the house at the time of the fire.



'Fearless Girl' finds a new home

Above: Children pose with the Fearless Girl statue at its new location in front of the New York Stock Exchange on Tuesday in New York. The statue, considered by many to symbolize female empowerment, was previously located near the Charging Bull statue on lower Broadway. Right: James Cordero takes a selfie with the Fearless Girl statue.

PHOTOS BY MARK LENNIHAN/AP



Witnesses told police Phillip "PJ" Montano had been drinking heavily before he struck Santa Fe County Sheriff's Lt. Michael Delgado in the face "for an unknown reason." The report said Montano also hit radio dispatcher Alyssa Martinez, 22, in her chest after she tried to break up a fight.

Man who rammed cars to flee 'zombies' gets jail

MS GULFPORT — A Mississippi Gulf Coast man who rammed vehicles because he thought zombies were chasing him was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

The Sun Herald reported Shaun Michael Stroud, 32, of Kilm, pleaded guilty last week to aggravated assault, grand larceny and malicious mischief.

Gulfport police arrested Stroud April 8 after he stole a front-end loader from a recycling center and smashed into at least four cars in a Walmart parking lot, including two with people inside.

Stroud told police he thought the world was ending.

Stroud also must pay \$41,000 in restitution and spend five years on post-release supervision.

Family builds tree out of dead cactuses

AZ PHOENIX — An Arizona family has gained attention for building a Christmas tree made of dead cactuses.

The Arizona Republic reported the Lancasters in Mesa, Ariz., recently completed their four-year journey to erect their "Phoenix Christmas tree" — a tree made entirely from cholla cactus skeletons.

Jeff Lancaster said he got the sturdy hole-ridden skeleton pieces to build the tree from friends who work in construction.

Woman claims assault by man resembling Santa

PA LEHMAN TOWNSHIP A Pennsylvania woman told police she was sexually assaulted by a man resembling Santa Claus.

Police in Lehman Township, Luzerne County, said they found the woman wrapped in a blanket and sitting on a guardrail on Dec. 2. She said she had been smoking a cigarette outside with a man who had a white beard and would "resemble a person looking like Santa Claus." She said they entered a trailer and the man sexually assaulted her.

Teacher apologizes for note on hairstyles ban

OH CINCINNATI — A middle school music teacher apologized Monday and backed off his instructions that students should not have "Mohawks, Large Afros, or any other outlandish" hairstyles at an upcoming chorus concert.

Vocal music teacher Steven Reeves' letter to students touched off a social media firestorm, with comments saying it was targeting black students. The Cincinnati Enquirer reported that Reeves himself is black.

In a new letter Monday, Reeves said his original "wording and

expectations were insensitive and were a mistake."

The school and the district had earlier disavowed the rules Reeves set out.

Man charged with misspending money

KY LEXINGTON — A Lexington man was charged with spending more than \$332,000 intended for his mother's nursing home care.

The Lexington Herald-Leader reported a federal grand jury indicted John Jerome O'Hara on bank fraud, wire fraud and access device fraud charges. The indictment said O'Hara was acting as his mother's power of attorney when he wrote checks to himself and others from her bank accounts.

The indictment said O'Hara failed to pay his mother's living expenses at a retirement community, forcing other family members to pay her bills. He also failed to make mortgage payments on her home, which went into foreclosure.

From wire reports

FACES

'A Star Is Born' leads SAG nominations

Los Angeles Times

The Screen Actors Guild Awards voters showered "A Star Is Born" with affection Wednesday morning, as the breakout hit musical drama led the field on the film side with four nominations.

The film picked up nominations in four of the five film categories including Bradley Cooper for lead actor, Lady Gaga for lead actress, Sam Elliott for supporting actor and for ensemble cast.

Cooper was nominated along with Christian Bale ("Vice"), Rami Malek ("Bohemian Rhapsody"), Viggo Mortensen ("Green Book") and John David Washington ("BlacKkKlansman").

Nominated with Gaga were Emily Blunt ("Mary Poppins Returns"), Glenn Close ("The Wife"), Olivia Colman ("The Favourite") and Melissa McCarthy ("Can You Ever

Forgive Me?").

Blunt also scored a surprise supporting actress nomination for "A Quiet Place," the horror hit directed by her husband John Krasinski, who landed a surprise nomination himself for his work on Amazon's drama series "Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan."

The other supporting actress nominees are Amy Adams ("Vice"), Margot Robbie ("Mary Queen of Scots"), Emma Stone ("The Favourite") and Rachel Weisz ("The Favourite").

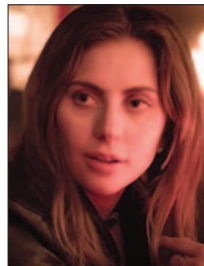
For supporting actor, Elliott was joined by Mahershala Ali ("Green Book"), Timothee Chalamet ("Beautiful Boy"), Adam Driver ("BlacKkKlansman") and Richard E. Grant ("Can You Ever Forgive Me?").

Ensemble cast nominations went to "A Star Is Born," "Black Panther," "BlacKkKlansman," "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "Crazy Rich Asians."

Historically, the SAG nominees in film align quite closely with the subsequent Oscar nominees, but it's rarely a perfect match. Last year, only five performances were nominated by the motion picture academy after missing out with SAG: Daniel Day-Lewis and Lesley Manville in "Phantom Thread," Meryl Streep in "The Post," Christopher Plummer in "All the Money in the World" and Octavia Spencer in "The Shape of Water."

On the TV side, ensemble recognition in the comedy category went to FX's "Atlanta," HBO's "Barry," Netflix's "Glow" and "The Kominsky Method" and Amazon's "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel."

Drama series ensemble nominations went to FX's "The Americans" (its first, for its final season), AMC's "Better Call Saul," Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale," Netflix's "Ozark" and NBC's "This Is Us."



WARNER BROS./AP

'A Star Is Born,' starring Lady Gaga, pictures, and Bradley Cooper, was nominated for four Screen Actors Guild awards.



TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX/AP

'Once Upon a Deadpool,' with Fred Savage and Ryan Reynolds, pays homage to "The Princess Bride."

Merc with a cleaner mouth

'Once Upon a Deadpool' reworks 'Deadpool 2' for PG-13 rating

By TRACY BROWNE
Los Angeles Times

As a foul-mouthed, fourth wall-breaking antihero, much of Deadpool's appeal is that he is the rare Marvel character landing an R-rated superhero franchise. This understanding makes it a bit difficult to imagine the Merc with a Mouth and his adventures repackaged into a somewhat family-friendly film.

But Ryan Reynolds and 20th Century Fox take on that exact challenge with "Once Upon a Deadpool," a PG-13 retelling of "Deadpool 2" which arrived in theaters for a limited run starting Wednesday — just in time for the holidays.

Luckily for "Once Upon a Deadpool," Wade Wilson's self-awareness is built into the franchise's DNA. This gives the film some room to play with formula and try to be more than a mere retort of the original theatrical release. Plus, it provides an opportunity for the film to reach fans who might have been deterred by "Deadpool 2's" R rating. (As an added benefit, a portion of the proceeds will go to Fudge Cancer.)

Here are three ways that "Once Upon a Deadpool" is different from the original theatrical version of "Deadpool 2."

[Note: In case it's not obvious, some spoilers for "Once Upon a Deadpool" follow.]

Hello, Fred Savage

"Once Upon a Deadpool" gives fans of "The Princess Bride" the homage they never knew they always wanted with the "forced" participation of Fred Savage.

As revealed in the movie's various promotional

clips, Deadpool has kidnapped Savage in order to re-create the framing device from the fan-favorite 1987 film, the familiar child's bedroom set and all.

Of course, Savage is no longer a kid, and Deadpool is nothing like a typical grandfatherly figure. But that will not stop Deadpool from telling his tale.

The device allows Savage to interject at various points throughout the movie whenever he has issues with the story. He even brings up very specific criticisms and concerns that some viewers had when "Deadpool 2" was originally released.

Goodbye, 'adult' references

The original "Deadpool 2" took full advantage of its rating by including plenty of violence, profanity and crude humor that just has no place in a family-friendly movie. This means there are entire sequences (as expected) that have been completely removed from this new version.

Any explicit that haven't been cut are bleeped out, but "Deadpool 2's" language is just one piece of its R-rated puzzle. Scenes involving dismemberment have also been toned down, and gone are any explicit references to drugs (though some of the edits are definitely a bit tongue in cheek).

Other 'new' scenes

Fans who have only seen the theatrical release of "Deadpool 2" will notice a few scenes that were not a part of the original cut. These scenes, though, are not completely new — they're also included in the film's unrated "Super Duper" extended-cut home release.

Study finds that female-led films outperform male ones

From wire services

Female-led films have consistently outperformed male-led movies at the box office, according to a study initiated by Time's Up, the organization formed by prominent women in the entertainment industry to promote gender equality.

The study analyzed the 350 top-grossing films worldwide released between January 2014 and December 2017. Researchers found that in films with small, medium and large budgets, all averaged better global grosses when a woman was listed as the lead star.

Conducted by the talent agency Creative Artists Agency and the tech company shift7, the study found that films that passed the Bechdel test do better, too. The Bechdel test, an invention of the cartoonist Alison Bechdel, rates whether a movie features two female characters having a conversation about something other than a man.

Researchers found every \$1 billion in box office — including films like "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," "Jurassic World" and "Beauty and the Beast" — passed the Bechdel test. Among films that cost more than \$100 million to make, the ones that passed the Bechdel test grossed an average \$618 million worldwide, while those that didn't averaged \$413 million.

"Women comprise half the box office, yet there has been an assumption in the industry that female-led films led were generally less successful," CAA agent Christy Haubegger, who participated in the research, said in a statement. "We found that the data does not support that assumption."

'Shining' among films added to Registry

The Library of Congress announced Wednesday that the films "Jurassic Park," "Brokeback Mountain" and "My Fair Lady" are among the 25 movies tapped for preservation this year

as the National Film Registry turns 30.

The national library chose a few more noteworthy titles such as "The Shining," "Eve's Bayou," "Hud" and "Broadcast News." Others on the list include 1898 film "Something Good — Negro Kiss" and "Smoke Signals" from 1998, along with animated films "Hair Piece: A Film for Nappy-Headed People" (1984) and "Cinderella" (1950).

The library selected movies for preservation because of their cultural, historic and artist importance since the registry began in 1988. This year's picks bring the total number of films in the registry to 750.

'Bohemian Rhapsody' popularity continues

Decades after Queen frontman Freddie Mercury's death, the group's 1975 hit "Bohemian Rhapsody" is now the most-streamed song from the 20th century, recently soaring past songs like Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit," A-ha's "Take on Me," and Guns N' Roses' "Sweet Child O' Mine" and "November Rain."

It's also the most-streamed classic rock song of all time, having racked up more than 1.6 billion streams around the world across all major streaming services, according to Universal Music Group, which represents Queen's catalog outside North America.

The count includes streams of the original song and official music video.

The six-minute song made up of several different-sounding sections has twice gotten a boost from blockbuster films. This year, "Bohemian Rhapsody," the film about the band released in October, became the highest-grossing musical biopic of all time. The song is heard several times in the film and appears on its soundtrack.

And in 1992's "Wayne's World," Mike Myers (Wayne) and Dana Carvey (Garth) famously headbanged to the tune while driving.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Fake boxes, GPS used to catch porch pirates

By David Porter
Associated Press

The explosion in online shopping has led to porch pirates and stoop surfers swiping holiday packages from unsuspecting residents. The cops in one New Jersey city are trying to catch the thieves with some trickery of their own.

Police in Jersey City, across the Hudson River from New York, are teaming up with Amazon to install doorbell cameras and plant dummy boxes with GPS tracking devices at homes around the city.

They didn't have to wait long Tuesday for someone to take the bait.

"We had a box out on the street for three minutes before it was taken," said police Capt. James Crecco, who is overseeing the mission. "We thought it was a mistake at first."

The suspect was caught, Crecco added.

Exact figures on porch thefts are hard to come by. A company commissioned by comparison-shopping service insuranceQuotes.com surveyed 1,000 people and extrapolated that 26 million Americans have had a holiday package stolen from their home. That would be nearly one in 12 Americans.

Amazon — which is providing equipment free for the Jersey City program — declined to provide figures on how many packages are reported stolen or missing, as did UPS and FedEx.

"We absolutely report them to local law enforcement when we hear of them, and we encourage our customers to do the same," UPS spokesman Glenn Zaccara said.

Jersey City Police Chief Michael Kelly told The Associated Press that the locations for camera-



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Boxes are transported on a conveyor belt at the Amazon fulfillment center in Aurora, Colo., in May. More online shopping has led to an increase in thefts of holiday packages from homes.

as and boxes were selected using the city's own crime statistics and mapping of theft locations provided by Amazon.

"Most of the package thefts we've made arrests on revolve around [closed-circuit TV] or private surveillance cameras that give us a still image," Kelly said. "With the bait packages, some will be under video surveillance, and some will have GPS."

No homeowner is immune. Crecco said his mother was a victim of a package theft. So was Mayor Steven Fulop, according to his spokeswoman.

Members of the police department who live in the city volunteered to have the cameras and boxes placed at their homes.

Kelly said the program has undergone a legal review and has been approved by a municipal prosecutor. He said the city is hoping to expand the program with assistance from Amazon, the

nation's largest online retailer.

Amazon declined to answer questions about the anti-theft program but said in a statement, "We appreciate the increased effort by local law enforcement to tackle package theft and remain committed to assisting however we can."

Similar programs have been tried in other cities including Albuquerque, N.M., and Hayward, Calif.

The Postal Service expects to deliver about 900 million packages, and United Parcel Service forecasts it will handle about 800 million parcels between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

That is causing a spike in deliveries to houses and apartments. Sometimes the residents aren't home or aren't aware that a package has been dropped off.

The delivery companies provide services that could offer some protection against porch thefts. The boldest might be Amazon's

Key service, in which homeowners pay to have a cloud-connected lock and camera installed at the front door, allowing an Amazon delivery person to unlock the door and slide the package inside.

Plenty of people went on social media to raise privacy and security objections after Amazon announced that service, but the company is betting that others will decide it's convenient.

Some other strategies for foiling snatch-and-run thieves require picking up packages at a company store, which defeats the purpose of at-home delivery.

To avoid parcels being left outside during extended absences, the post office has long allowed customers to set up hold-mail requests.

UPS and FedEx let customers sign up for alerts about deliveries and give them the chance to reschedule or change the drop-off address even for deliveries already on their way.

The delivery companies will also let customers pick up packages at other businesses. FedEx, for example, uses some Albertsons and Kroger grocery stores and Walgreens drugstores.

Other tips:

■ Have packages delivered to a workplace or a friend who is home during the day.

■ Ask if a signature can be required for the package to be dropped off, particularly if it's an expensive item.

■ Doorbell cameras, some for \$100 or less, let residents keep an eye on their porch, which might not stop a thief but perhaps give police video evidence to help catch the culprit.

■ There are services that use a locked storage box bolted to the customer's porch. Delivery drivers can unlock them by entering a code on a keypad.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 13)	\$1.1659
Dollar buys (Dec. 13)	69.8577
British pound (Dec. 13)	\$1.29
Japanese yen (Dec. 13)	10.26
South Korean won (Dec. 13)	1,099.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2623
Canada (Dollar)	1.3345
China (Yuan)	6.8823
Denmark (Krone)	6.5677
Egypt (Pound)	17.8107
Euro	\$1.1365/0.8799
Hong Kong (Dollar)	284.37
Hungary (Forint)	3.7501
Israel (Sheqel)	113.29
Japan (Yen)	0.3942
Kuwait (Dinar)	4.5683
Norway (Krone)	52.61
Philippines (Peso)	3.79
Poland (Zloty)	3.7515
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3722
South Korea (Won)	1,125.78
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9932
Thailand (Baht)	32.75
Turkey (New Lira)	3,588

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-Japan currency exchange rates (purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	2.20
3-month bill	2.35
30-year bond	3.13

MARKET WATCH

Dec. 11, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	-53.02
	24,370.24
Nasdaq composite	11.31
	7,031.83
Standard & Poor's 500	-0.94
	2,636.78
Russell 2000	-2.97
	1,440.13

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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OPINION

When it comes to helping GIs, talk is cheap

By REBECCA A. ADELMAN
Special to The Washington Post

“Wouldn't it have been nice if we got Osama bin Laden a lot sooner?” President Donald Trump mused last month.

With that conjecture about the leadership of Adm. William McRaven, whom he succinctly dismissed as a “Hillary Clinton fan” and “Obama backer,” Trump provoked yet another scandal about presidential comportment. Of course, it's hardly news that Trump criticized someone seemingly unassailable: indeed, his swipe at Chief Justice John Roberts three days later largely displaced the McRaven story.

But like Trump's insistence that the late Sen. John McCain was “not a war hero,” his criticism of McRaven rankled in a newsworthy way because it grated against our sense that military personnel ought to be publicly venerated. The ritual of saying thank you to the troops is now an established, almost demanded, response to the pervasive notion that military personnel are the best among us, frequently couched as a repayment of our perceived collective debts for their sacrifice.

But singling out military personnel for such acknowledgments actually comes at the expense of meaningfully recognizing their service. By taking the easy way out, offering accolades instead of the concrete support they need or careful thought about the human costs of U.S. foreign policy, we may actually be putting our troops at greater risk. Because adoration for the troops has become central to American militarism (the idea that war is necessary, inevitable, even beneficial), participating in these rituals may, in fact, cement the beliefs that inspire the United States to send its military personnel to war.

The expectation that politicians and ordinary citizens alike express their unwavering support for the troops is relatively new. Although our government has provided compensation for injured veterans since before the Revolutionary War, it has often doled out these benefits begrudgingly.

During the Civil War, the government established a veterans' pension, and the years after the war were marked by an upwelling of citizen gratitude for the massive conscript army credited with preserving the Union. In his second inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln implored the nation to “strive on ... to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphans.” This pledge later became the foundation for the mission statement of the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs).

Yet by the end of the 19th century, animosity toward people with disabilities contributed to the social marginalization of injured veterans. Indeed, over time, the initial good will toward veterans morphed into resentment about the special treatment they seemed to be receiving from the state. In public discourse, veterans were often scorned for laziness, criminality and malingering unemployment, a characterization that persisted into the era of World War I.

In October 1920, as New York voters considered a state bond that would pay a bonus to veterans, Henry Stimson — secretary of war under William Howard Taft and again under Franklin Roosevelt, and himself a World War I veteran — wrote a piece in The New York Times warning that this bonus would “inevitably teach the service men to lean upon the State and nation.” Although the bond issue passed handily, the nationwide push toward rehabilitation for injured veterans was motivated by a concern they become productive, gainfully employable — members of society,



Rocio V. Soto/AP

A young child listens to the eulogy during an interment service Friday at North Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Kilmichael for Navy Petty Officer Durell Wade. Wade was killed aboard the USS Oklahoma during the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

not any sense that the nation owed them a debt of gratitude.

In the midst of the Great Depression in 1932, thousands of jobless World War I veterans converged on Washington to demand immediate payment of service bonuses they were scheduled to receive in 1945. In an attempt to repulse the “Bonus Army,” the Hoover administration called in the city police.

After this provoked a riot in which two protesters were shot and killed, President Herbert Hoover dispatched an Army unit equipped with tanks and tear gas that ultimately dispersed the men.

Hoover's successor, Franklin Roosevelt, took a gentler approach to veteran activists, even as, in 1933, he gave a speech that would be virtually unthinkable today: insisting that veterans, even disabled veterans, were not entitled to any special benefits. In 1944, Roosevelt — perhaps mindful that the nation could ill afford a return to the mass discontent and unemployment that sparked the Bonus March — signed the GI Bill. Notably, however, even this seminal legislation spawned controversy in both houses of Congress.

The GI Bill reflected how, by and large, World War II veterans received a heroes' welcome, supported tangibly with state resources. Yet this treatment of veterans was anomalous in 20th-century American wars and did not last. Sharply divided public opinion about the Vietnam War begot conflicting opinions about the personnel who fought it, with many veterans stung by the sense that they returned home to a hostile public and a government disinterested in their needs.

The end of the draft in 1973 and subsequent transition to an all-volunteer force, however, changed the meaning of enlistment, transforming the act into the utmost symbol of patriotism and willing self-sacrifice. Moreover, the belief that an indifferent or even antagonistic civilian population exacerbated the trauma of Vietnam veterans became a cautionary tale about how military personnel ought to be treated.

The newfound option for most Americans to avoid military service seemingly endowed them with a new responsibility: expressing gratitude toward military personnel who enlisted so that they didn't have to. This resulted in a crucial trans-

formation: The choice not to enlist became entirely unremarkable — until a civilian criticized U.S. military action, the military or someone in it, at which point their civilian status instantly delegitimized their argument. By the time the Gulf War began, rhetorically supporting the troops became a political imperative, and after 9/11, it became the only viable platform, regardless of one's position on our subsequent wars.

This historical transformation manifested itself in the two most prominent reactions to Trump's criticism of McRaven: professions of gratitude for the admiral and criticism of Trump's lack of military service. Even many Republican leaders made clear their respect for McRaven, though they dared not criticize the president directly. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), exemplified this, tweeting: “I don't know if Adm. William McRaven shares my political views or not. But I do know that few Americans have sacrificed or risked more than has to protect America & the freedoms we enjoy. His military career exemplified honor & excellence. I am grateful for his service.”

Many of the mainstream news stories about Trump's comments cited the five draft deferments that the president received during Vietnam. The stories often referenced this information without elaboration, as if its meaning and relevance were self-evident: Trump was a coward who had no right to criticize McRaven, because McRaven served and he had not.

But there is something specious about this popular reverence for the military. While the vast majority of Americans view all branches of the military favorably, they have little interest in enlisting. A recent report by the Council on Foreign Relations revealed that only 0.5 percent of the population (1.29 million people) are active-duty military, down from roughly 1 percent (2.2 million) in 1973. With the exception of a small upsurge around 9/11, the size of the active-duty military has been steadily decreasing for the last 45 years, and this year the Army fell short of its recruiting goal of 80,000 new enlistees.

The disconnect between our regard for the military and our disinterest (my own included) in actually serving deepens the already sharp division between civilian and military populations. Paradoxically, venerating military personnel, even with good intentions, may exacerbate it further. Setting military personnel apart as special and glorifying their combat experiences makes it easier to ignore the costs of war and the deeply uneven ways that they are distributed, both domestically and abroad. Instead of this reckoning, civilians who shoulder few of those burdens can feel as if they've contributed — merely by professing their support and gratitude to the troops.

In this way, it becomes easier and easier to consent to militarism and so to guarantee that the same people will be called on to fight again and again. At the same time, the slow-motion crisis at the VA, the recent spike in suicides among young veterans, the ongoing epidemic of untreated mental health conditions among military personnel and the financial hardships that many military families encounter all reveal the shallowness of the gratitude that we are compelled to profess. Chastising the president for yet another boorish attack does nothing to solve these problems. Instead, we'd be far better off questioning our own accountability for the suffering of military personnel, which mandatory platitudes will never alleviate.

Rebecca A. Adelman is an associate professor of media and communication studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and author of “Fighting Violence: Affective Investments in Perpetual War.”

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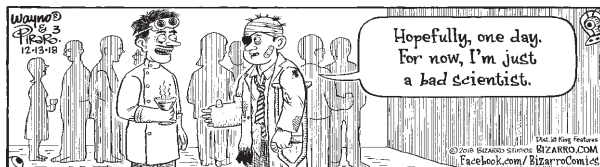
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Automotive 140

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SC REBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

College basketball

Tuesday's men's scores

EAST
Baruch 76, New Paltz 60
NJIT 53, Fordham 50
Penn 78, Villanova 60
Columbia Brooklyn 75, Mass.-Lowell 69
Towson 80, UMBC 76, 2OT
Yale 71, Albany (NY) 63

SOUTH
Furman 77, Charleston Southern 69
Georgetown (Ky.) 58, Welch 63
Jackson 57, Fla. St. 55
Liberty 75, SC State 55
Louisiana Tech 58, MVSU 80
Louisiana-Lafayette 122, Prairie View 105
Louisiana Monroe 77, Grambling 51, 67
Maryland 94, Loyola (Md.) 71
Sewanee 61, Boyce 66
Southern Miss. 81, Millsaps 47
UCF 95, Georgia Southern 88

MIDWEST
Augusta 99, Minn.-Morris 67
Ball State 64, Ballou 67
Green Bay 112, Wis.-Stout 46
Michigan-Dearborn 58, Ohio Christian 56
Northern Iowa 80, North Florida 33
S Dakota St. 139, Savannah St. 72

SOUTHWEST
UCLA 67, Miles 47

FAIR WEST
Colorado 78, New Mexico 75
Denver 50, Wyoming 87, OT
Colorado 118, W. Col. 52
Sacramento St. 81, Holy Names 56

Tuesday's women's scores

EAST
Fairleighdick 61, Yeshiva 56
Fordham 68, Columbia 65
Hartford 65, Rhode Island 51
NYU 76, Col. State 59
Old Westbury 38, Lehman 31
St. John's 63, Monmouth (NJ) 47
Stony Brook 53, Iona 21

SOUTH
Centre 63, Earham 40
Hartford 68, Columbia 65
Georgetown (Ky.) 58, Welch 63
Jackson 57, Fla. St. 55
Liberty 75, SC State 55
Louisiana Tech 58, MVSU 80
Louisiana-Lafayette 122, Prairie View 105
Louisiana Monroe 77, Grambling 51, 67
Maryland 94, Loyola (Md.) 71
Sewanee 61, Boyce 66
Southern Miss. 81, Millsaps 47
UCF 95, Georgia Southern 88

MIDWEST
Augusta 99, Minn.-Morris 67
Ball State 64, Ballou 67
Green Bay 112, Wis.-Stout 46
Michigan-Dearborn 58, Ohio Christian 56
Northern Iowa 80, North Florida 33
S Dakota St. 139, Savannah St. 72

SOUTHWEST
UCLA 67, Miles 47

FAIR WEST
Colorado 78, New Mexico 75
Denver 50, Wyoming 87, OT
Colorado 118, W. Col. 52
Sacramento St. 81, Holy Names 56

AP spotlight

Dec. 13 — The Washington Redskins win the NFL Championship with a 14-6 victory over the Chicago Bears.

Dec. 14 — Gordie Howe of the Detroit Red Wings scores his 40th NHL goal in a 2-1 tie against the Montreal Canadiens.

Dec. 15 — Detroit beats Boston 18-184 in the first game of the Stanley Cup playoffs in NBA history. Isaiah Thomas leads 47 and John Long adds 41 for the Celtics. Denver's Kirk Wedemeyer has 51 points.

Dec. 16 — Marion Rheaume becomes the first woman to play in a regular-season professional game when she appears in the first NHL game to lose to Salt Lake City in the International Hockey League.

Dec. 17 — The first NFL defense man to reach 1,000 career assists, setting up Jon Lardorio's record in the Minnesota Vikings' 31-1 victory over Chicago.

Dec. 18 — Charles Woodson is named the first predominantly defensive player to win the Manis Trophy in the 63 years of the award. Woodson and the Wolverines go on to defeat Washington State in the 1989 Rose Bowl, claiming a perfect 12-0 season and a share of the Vince Lombardi Award.

Dec. 19 — Gary Anderson kicks six field goals, setting the NFL record with 34 points in a 38-28 victory over Baltimore.

Dec. 20 — Minnesota's Reggie Miller leads the team in scoring with 35 points in a 108-95 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Dec. 21 — Reggie Miller leads the team in scoring with 35 points in a 108-95 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Dec. 22 — Reggie Miller leads the team in scoring with 35 points in a 108-95 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Dec. 23 — Reggie Miller leads the team in scoring with 35 points in a 108-95 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Dec. 24 — Reggie Miller leads the team in scoring with 35 points in a 108-95 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Dec. 25 — Reggie Miller leads the team in scoring with 35 points in a 108-95 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Dec. 26 — Reggie Miller leads the team in scoring with 35 points in a 108-95 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Dec. 27 — Reggie Miller leads the team in scoring with 35 points in a 108-95 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Dec. 28 — Reggie Miller leads the team in scoring with 35 points in a 108-95 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Dec. 29 — Reggie Miller leads the team in scoring with 35 points in a 108-95 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Dec. 30 — Reggie Miller leads the team in scoring with 35 points in a 108-95 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Dec. 31 — Reggie Miller leads the team in scoring with 35 points in a 108-95 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

College football

Bowl schedule
Saturday, Dec. 15
Celebration Bowl
At Atlanta
NC A&T (9-2) vs. Alcorn State (9-3)

Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Tulane (6-6) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (7-6)

New Mexico Bowl
Albuquerque
North Texas (9-3) vs. Utah State (10-2)

Las Vegas Bowl
Fresno State (11-2) vs. Arizona State (7-5)

Camella Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
Georgia Southern (9-9) vs. Eastern Michigan (7-9)

New Orleans Bowl
Middle Tennessee (8-5) vs. Appalachian State (10-2)

Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
Tues. (10-3) vs. North Illinois (8-5)

Wednesday, Dec. 19
Frisco (Texas) Bowl
San Diego State (7-5) vs. Ohio (8-4)

Thursday, Dec. 20
Gasparrillo Bowl
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Marshall (10-3) vs. South Florida (7-5)

Friday, Dec. 21
Bahamas Bowl
Reno, Nev.
Toledo (7-5) vs. FIU (8-4)

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise
Western Michigan (7-5) vs. BYU (6-6)

Saturday, Dec. 22
Birmingham (Ala.) Bowl
Memphis (8-5) vs. Wake Forest (6-6)

Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth, Texas
Houston (8-4) vs. Army (9-3)

General
Mobile, Ala.
Buffalo (11-2) vs. Troy (9-3)

Hawaii Bowl
Honolulu
Louisiana Tech (7-5) vs. Hawaii (8-5)

Wednesday, Dec. 26
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl
Dallas
Boston College (7-5) vs. Boise State (10-3)

Quick Lane Bowl
Detroit
Minnesota (6-6) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5)

Phoenix
California (7-5) vs. TCU (6-6)

Thursday, Dec. 27
Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.
Temple (8-4) vs. Duke (7-5)

Pinstripe Bowl
Bronx, N.Y.
Miami (7-5) vs. Wisconsin (7-5)

Houston
Baylor (6-6) vs. Vanderbilt (6-6)

Friday, Dec. 28
Musky City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.
Purdue (6-6) vs. Auburn (7-5)

Camping World Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
West Virginia (8-3) vs. Texas Tech (7-5)

Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
Iowa State (8-4) vs. Washington State (10-2)

Saturday, Dec. 29
Peach Bowl
Atlanta
Florida (9-3) vs. Michigan (10-2)

Bell Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
South Carolina (7-5) vs. Virginia (7-5)

Arizona Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
Arkansas State (8-4) vs. Nevada (7-5)

Cotton Bowl Classic
Dallas, Texas
CFP Semifinal, Notre Dame (14-0) vs. Clemson (13-4)

Pro baseball

Free agents
NEW YORK (7) — The 144 remaining free agents (q-rejected) \$117 million qualifying offer.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
BALTIMORE (2) — Adam Jones, cf; Colby Rasmus, lf; **BOSTON** (5) — Joe Kelly, rf; q-Braylon Kinnaird, lf; Ian Kinsler, 2b; Craig Kimbrel, 3b; **CHICAGO** (4) — Jeannier Gomez, rf; Matt Garza, 3b; q-Factor Santiago; **INDIANAPOLIS** (5) — James Shields, rf; Michael Brantley, cf; Melky Cabrera, cf; Rajai Davis, cf; Brandon Guyer, cf; Andrew Heaney, lf; Oliver Perez, cf; Adam Rosales, inf; Josh Tomlin, rf; **DETROIT** (4) — Jacob deGrom, 3b; Francisco Lirio, lf; Victor Martinez, dh; Jarrod Saltalamacchia, c; **HOUSTON** (6) — Evan Gattis, cf; Marwin Gonzalez, inf; q-Dallas Keuchly; **MILWAUKEE** (6) — Charlie Leake, 3b; Tony Sipp, 3b; **MINNESOTA** (5) — Alcides Escobar, ss; Jason Hammel, rf; **LOS ANGELES** (5) — Jim Johnson, rf; Blake Wood, 3b; RHP; J. J. Zavala, cf; Chris Young, cf; Eric Young Jr., cf; Logan Forsythe, 2b; Chris Gimenez, cf; Matt Kemp, lf; Logan Morrison, lf; Ervin Santana, rf; **NEW YORK** (7) — Chad Britton, inf; J.A. Happ, 3b; Adam Ottavino, rf; David Laro, lf; Andrew McCutchen, cf; David Robertson, rf; Neil Walker, inf.

Orange Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
CFP Semifinal, Oklahoma (12-1) vs. Alabama (13-4)

Monday, Dec. 31
Military Bowl
Annapolis, Md.
Cincinnati (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (6-6)

Sun Bowl
El Paso, Texas
Stanford (8-4) vs. Pittsburgh (7-6)

San Diego Bowl
San Diego, Calif.
Michigan State (7-5) vs. Oregon (8-4)

Tuesday, Jan. 1
Holiday Bowl
Memphis, Tenn.
Missouri (8-4) vs. Texas State (6-6)

Monday, Dec. 31
Jackpot Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla.
NC State (9-3) vs. Texas A&M (8-4)

Tuesday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
Mississippi State (8-4) vs. Iowa (8-4)

Liberty Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Kentucky (9-3) vs. Penn State (9-3)

Fiesta Bowl
Glendale, Ariz.
LSU (9-3) vs. UCF (12-0)

Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Washington (10-3) vs. State (12-1)

Sugar Bowl
New Orleans
Texas (9-3) vs. Auburn (11-2)

Monday, Jan. 1
College Football Championship
Santa Clara, Calif.
Cotton Bowl winner vs. Orange Bowl winner

Saturday, Jan. 19
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East-West Shrine Classic

East-West Shrine Classic
NFLPA College Bowl
Tennessee (7-5) vs. American vs. National

Saturday, Jan. 26
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South

FCS playoffs
Semifinals
Dec. 13, 14
South Dakota State (10-2) at North Dakota State (13-0)
Saturday, Dec. 15
Maine (10-3) at Eastern Washington (11-2)

Championship
Saturday, Jan. 19
At Toyota Stadium
Frisco, Texas
Semifinal winners, Noon

NCAA Division II playoffs
Championship
Saturday, Dec. 15
At Mackay Park
Valdosta State (13-0) vs. Ferris State (15-0)

NCAA Division III playoffs
Championship
Friday, Dec. 14
At Shennecossett, Texas
Mount Union (14-0) vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor (14-0)

NIAA playoffs
Championship
Saturday, Dec. 15
At Municipal Stadium
St. Louis (14-0) vs. Benedictine (Kan.) (13-1)

OAKLAND (8) — Brett Anderson, inf; Trevor Cahill, 3b; Jeurys Familia, rf; Edwin Jackson, rf; Matt Joyce, cf; Chasen Kelly, 3b; RHP; Joe Loefer, 2b; Jason Lucroy, c;

ATLANTA (6) — Gordon Beckham, 2b; Nelson Cruz, dh; Zach Duke, lf; Cameron Maybin, 2b; RHP; Ryan Braun, 1b; RHP; Romine, inf; Denard Span, cf; Adam Warren, rf;

DETROIT (4) — Carlos Gomez, cf; Sergio Romo, rf; Justin Verlander, 3b; Ryan Barnett, rf; Adrián Beltré, 3b; Bartolo Colon, rf; Doug Fister, 3b; Evan Longoria, cf; Martin Pérez, 3b;

TORONTO (2) — Tyler Clippard, rf; Marco Estrada, 3b; J.J. Burchholz, 3b; Randall Delgado, rf; Daniel Descalso, inf; Jake Dieken, 3b; Jon Jay, cf; Jhonny Peralta, 3b; **ST. LOUIS** (6) — Brad Brach, rf; Lucas Duda, lf; Ryan Flaherty, inf; Nick Markakis, 3b; RHP; Anthony Rendon, 3b; Peter Moya, lf; Rene Rivera, cf; Anibal Sanchez, 3b;

LOS ANGELES (5) — Jorge De La Rosa, 3b; Jaime Garcia, lf; Daniel Murphy, 2b; Bobby Wilson, cf; Jase Wronski, 3b;

CINCINNATI (1) — Matt Harvey, rf; Jacob deGrom, 3b; **MINNESOTA** (5) — Alcides Escobar, ss; Jason Hammel, rf; **LOS ANGELES** (5) — Jim Johnson, rf; Blake Wood, 3b; RHP; J. J. Zavala, cf; Chris Young, cf; Eric Young Jr., cf; Logan Forsythe, 2b; Chris Gimenez, cf; Matt Kemp, lf; Logan Morrison, lf; Ervin Santana, rf; **NEW YORK** (7) — Chad Britton, inf; J.A. Happ, 3b; Adam Ottavino, rf; David Laro, lf; Andrew McCutchen, cf; David Robertson, rf; Neil Walker, inf.

Pro football

NFL
AMERICAN CONFERENCE
East
New England 9 4-0 692 364 293
Miami 7 6-0 558 278 313
Buffalo 4 1-0 338 201 320
N.Y. Jets 4 9-0 300 270 330

West
Houston 9 4-0 692 323 259
Indianapolis 7 6-0 538 280 310
Tennessee 7 6-0 538 251 273
Jacksonville 4 9-0 300 212 274

North
Pittsburgh 7 5-1 577 367 306
Cleveland 7 6-0 538 280 310
Cleveland 5 7-1 423 292 332
Cincinnati 5 10-0 385 307 397

South
x-Kansas City 11 2-0 346 471 351
L.A. Chargers 10 3-0 769 365 270
Denver 7 6-0 462 290 382
Oakland 10 10-0 214 348 388

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
East
Dallas 8 5-0 615 276 246
Philadelphia 10 3-0 452 261 295
Washington 6 7-0 462 249 297
N.Y. Giants 10 9-0 385 307 331

West
New Orleans 11 2-0 346 471 351
Carolina 7 6-0 462 324 332
Tampa Bay 5 8-0 385 332 383
Atlanta 10 10-0 214 348 388

North
Chicago 6 4-0 692 359 247
Green Bay 5 8-0 580 282 291
Green Bay 5 7-1 423 315 303
Detroit 10 10-0 385 307 397

South
L.A. Rams 11 2-0 346 471 351
Seattle 8 5-0 615 340 266
Arizona 3 10-0 231 178 327
San Francisco 10 10-0 214 348 388

Thursday's games
Tennessee 30 vs. New England 9
Sunday's games
Miami 24 vs. Washington 16
New England 30 vs. Cleveland 26
Cleveland 26 vs. Carolina 20
Indianapolis 24 vs. Houston 21
New Orleans 28 vs. Tampa Bay 14
Green Bay 34 vs. Atlanta 20
Chicago 27 vs. Buffalo 27
Kansas City 27 vs. Baltimore 24
OT
Carolina 27 vs. Cincinnati 27
San Francisco 20 vs. Denver 14
OT
Oakland 24 vs. Pittsburgh 21
Dallas 28 vs. Philadelphia 23
OT
Chicago 15 vs. L.A. Rams 6
Monday's games
Seattle 21 vs. N.Y. Giants 17
Thursday, Dec. 13
L.A. Chargers 30 vs. Kansas City 27
Saturday, Dec. 15
Houston 21 vs. N.Y. Jets 17
Tennessee 30 vs. N.Y. Giants 17
Green Bay 34 vs. Chicago 27
New England 30 vs. Andrew Luck
Tampa Bay 14 vs. Baltimore 28
Arizona 24 vs. Atlanta 20
Cleveland 26 vs. Cincinnati 27
Dallas 28 vs. Indianapolis 24
Washington at Jacksonville
Seattle at San Francisco
OT
New England at Pittsburgh
Philadelphia at L.A. Rams
Monday, Dec. 17
New Orleans at Carolina

NFL calendar
Dec. 12 — Winter meetings, Irving, Texas.
Dec. 13 — Regular season ends.
Jan. 5-6 — Wild-card playoffs
Jan. 12-13 — Divisional playoff round

College hockey

Tuesday's score
EAST
UMass 5, Yale 2

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Signed OF Billy Hamilton to the St. Louis Cardinals for \$10 million.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with RHP Forrest Sumrall, 3b; OF Garret Anderson, 3b; and RHP Matt Ramsey on one-year contracts.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Agreed to terms with C Chris Herrmann on a one-year contract.
TEXAS RANGERS — Acquired 3B Pat Nease from the St. Louis Cardinals for INF/Drew Robinson.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Released SS Troy Tulowitzki.
National League
MIAMI MARLINS — Assigned RHP Brett Graves and 3B Yadiel Rivera outright to New Orleans.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Signed RHP Devin Williams to a one-year contract.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Traded RHP RHP Nova to the Chicago White Sox for RHP RHP Rosario and international signing rights.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NBA — Named former Abdul-Rahim Pridmore to the Chicago White Sox for RHP RHP Rosario and international signing rights.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Placed LB Terrence Armbrister and DT Robert NeSmith on injured reserve. Signed DT Vincent Valentine from Seattle's practice squad and signed LB Dariusz Janas to the practice squad.
ATLANTA BRAVES — Placed LF Michael Bourn and CB Taron Johnson on injured reserve.
DETROIT LIONS — Placed DE Ziggy Ansah and TE Michael Robertson injured reserve. Signed TE Michael Robertson and LO Leo Kolosantangi from the practice squad.
LOS ANGELES RAMS — Placed RB Malcolm Brown and CB Dominique Chachere on injured reserve. Signed DT Vincent Valentine from Seattle's practice squad.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed offensive coordinator John DeFilippo, Promot-quarterbacks coach and defensive coordinator Kevin O'Connell on injured reserve. Placed RB C.J. Anderson, Placed G/C Jon Felton on injured reserve.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Placed OT Jackson Eddy on injured reserve. Signed OL Austin Pasztor. Signed TE Cole Beck from San Francisco's practice squad.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Signed G Kyle Fuller, waived G Demetrius Ramsey.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANHEIM DUCKS — Claimed G Chad Krysinskiy from the St. Louis Blues.
BUFFALO SABRES — Sent D Matt Munnick to Rochester (AHL) for a rehab assignment.
DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled D Brian Elliott from the Grand Rapids Griffins.
NEW YORK RANGERS — Assigned FS Andrew Ladd to Hartford and Steve Downie to Hartford (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Reassigned G Eddie Pasquale to Syracuse (AHL).
OLYMPIC SPORTS
U.S. AND CANADIAN SPORTS — Announced American weightlifter Nicholas Gholson to compete at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Gholson was suspended for one month of ineligibility for violating the joint drug-testing program.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
ATLANTA FC — Signed D Greg Garza to FC Cincinnati for targeted and general call-ups to Atlanta.
COLUMBUS CREW — Reached agreement with D Kevin Ponder to Manchester City (Premier League).
L.A. GALAXY — Signed D Darnell Dimech to the club.
LOS ANGELES FC — Traded D Joao Moutinho to TE John Smith on injured reserve.
NEW YORK CITY SC — Traded D Amro Tarek to the N.Y. Red Bulls for a 2019 fourth-round draft pick.
CHICAGO FIRE
AUSTIN PERS — Named Mark Hudspeth as head coach.
BOSTON CELTICS — Extended the contract of D Jaylen Brown to 2020.
MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES — Named Phil Longo as offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach, Lonnie Galloway vice receivers coach and Brian Foster as defensive coordinator.

NHL

Roundup

Ovechkin, Caps rout Red Wings

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In his first season as a Stanley Cup champion, Alex Ovechkin is enjoying hockey as much as ever.

It showed again Tuesday night, when he scored his 21st hat trick and first this season to lift the Washington Capitals over the Detroit Red Wings 6-2.

The 33-year-old Ovechkin entered the night in a familiar spot as the NHL's goal leader. He has 25 following his hat trick, halfway to a potential eighth 50-goal season. His team has won three straight, and 10 out of 12.

"After last year, you just enjoy it," Ovechkin said about defending Washington's Stanley Cup title. "Of course, you don't want to too much enjoy it, but I try to be the same, over and over again."

Nicklas Backstrom had four assists to help the Metropolitan Division leaders score six or more goals for the fourth time this season. T.J. Oshie added a goal in his return from an 11-game lay-off due to a concussion, and Travis Boyd and Brett Connolly also scored early.

Braden Holtby made 35 stops for Washington, which had scored 12 straight goals over a stretch of more than six periods before Detroit's Dylan Larkin and Gustav Nyquist broke through in the third.

"One thing we've wanted to learn this season is we've kind of gotten sloppy at times when we've gotten leads," Holtby said.

"At times tonight we played really well. At times we kind of turned it into a chance for chance, and I think it's something we just want

to keep continuing to build at."

Bruins 4, Coyotes 3: Brad Marchand scored two goals and assisted on another during a four-goal, second-period flurry to lead host Boston over Arizona.

Canucks 3, Blue Jackets 2: Jake Virtanen scored the tie-breaking goal with less than two minutes remaining and Jacob Markstrom stopped 34 shots as visiting Vancouver rallied to beat Columbus.

Wild 7, Canadiens 1: Matt Dumba scored twice, Devan Dubnyk made 29 saves and host Minnesota took out some recent frustrations on Montreal.

Jets 6, Blackhawks 3: Kyle Connor scored twice and host Winnipeg gave Chicago its eighth straight loss.

Blues 4, Panthers 3: Brayden Schenn capped his team's four-goal third period as host St. Louis beat Florida.

Predators 3, Senators 1: Ryan Ellis scored his first game-winning goal of the season, Pekka Rinne made 25 saves and host Nashville defeated Ottawa.

Maple Leafs 4, Hurricanes 1: William Nylander had two assists and Morgan Rielly scored the go-ahead goal to lift visiting Toronto over Carolina.

Sabres 4, Kings 3 (OT): Jeff Skinner scored a power-play goal 1:49 into overtime and host Buffalo overcame a 3-1 deficit in the third period to beat Los Angeles.

Oilers 6, Avalanche 4: Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored twice as part of his team's four-goal second period, Mikko Koskinen stopped 39 shots and visiting Edmonton extended its winning streak to four games with a victory over Colorado.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
Tampa Bay	22	24	7	1	49	130	91	+39	1
Toronto	31	21	9	1	43	113	85	+28	0
Buffalo	31	18	9	4	39	105	91	+14	0
Boston	31	17	10	4	38	85	79	+6	0
Montreal	31	16	11	4	34	97	101	-4	0
Detroit	32	14	14	4	32	93	107	-14	0
Ottawa	32	13	15	4	30	106	125	-19	0
Florida	29	11	12	6	28	88	108	-20	0

Metropolitan Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
N.Y. Islanders	30	16	12	2	34	102	102	0	0
Pittsburgh	29	13	10	6	32	98	92	+6	0
N.Y. Rangers	30	14	13	3	31	88	98	-10	0
Carolina	29	13	12	4	30	112	111	+1	0
Philadelphia	28	12	13	3	27	86	101	-15	0
New Jersey	29	10	13	6	26	88	105	-17	0

Western Conference

Central Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
Nashville	31	20	10	1	41	98	78	+20	0
St. Louis	30	19	9	2	40	107	83	+24	0
Colorado	31	17	9	5	39	112	94	+18	0
Dallas	30	16	11	3	35	93	78	+15	0
Minnesota	30	16	12	2	34	95	88	+7	0
St. Louis	29	11	14	4	26	82	97	-15	0

Pacific Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
Calgary	30	19	10	1	40	107	85	+22	0
San Jose	32	16	11	5	37	101	98	+3	0
Anaheim	32	16	11	5	37	81	94	-13	0
Edmonton	31	17	12	2	36	98	88	+10	0
Vegas	32	17	14	1	35	96	91	+5	0
San Jose	32	14	16	2	30	98	111	-13	0
Arizona	29	13	14	2	28	76	80	-4	0

Notes: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Pittsburgh 2, N.Y. Islanders 1, 50 (Pansini, Adams), 0-47.
Detroit 3, Los Angeles 1, 50 (San Jose 5, New Jersey 2).
Tuesday's games
 Toronto 4, Carolina 1.
 Chicago 4, Los Angeles 3, OT.
 Washington 6, Detroit 2.
 Minnesota 7, Montreal 1.
 Nashville 3, Ottawa 1.
 Winnipeg 6, Chicago 3.
 St. Louis 4, Florida 2.
 Edmonton 6, Colorado 4.
Friday's games
 Vegas at N.Y. Islanders.
 Pittsburgh at Chicago.
 Philadelphia at Calgary.
 Dallas at Anaheim.
Saturday's games
 Los Angeles at Columbus.
 Toronto at Tampa Bay.
 Carolina at Montreal.
 Washington at Nashville.
 Edmonton at Winnipeg.
 Florida in Minnesota.
 Dallas at San Jose.
Sunday's games
 Vegas at New Jersey.
 Boston at Pittsburgh.
 Arizona at N.Y. Rangers.
 Ottawa at Detroit.
 Washington at St. Louis.
 Philadelphia at Edmonton.

Tuesday

Oilers 6, Avalanche 4									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
Edmonton	30	14	1	5	29	106	83	+23	0
Colorado	30	10	1	3	24	88	108	-20	0

First Period—1, Edmonton, Brodzicki 3 (Nurse), 13:51.
Second Period—2, Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 9 (Bennett, McDavid), 8:29 (pp), 3, Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 10 (Lucic), 13:57, 4, Edmonton, McDavid 17 (Draisaitl, Larsson), 15:14, 5, Colorado, Rantanen 13 (Bar, Landeskog), 16:16, 6, Edmonton, Draisaitl 16 (Brodzicki, Kassian), 16:42.
Third Period—7, Colorado, Wilson 8 (Rantanen, Landeskog), 1:41 (pp), 8, Edmonton, Nurse 4 (Draisaitl, Nugent-Hopkins), 3:05 (pp), 9, Colorado, Landeskog 18 (MacKinnon, Rantanen), 16:11, 10, Colorado, Landeskog 19 (Rantanen, MacKinnon), 18:53.
Shots on Goal—Edmonton 19-13-26. Colorado 13-14-16-43.
Power-play opportunities—Edmonton 2 of 3; Colorado 1 of 6.
Goalies—Edmonton, Koskinen 10-31 (63 shots-39 saves). Colorado, Grabauer 7-22 (63-55), Varlamov 10-73 (18-15).
 A-15-809 (18,007), T-2-45.

Bruins 4, Coyotes 3

Arizona									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
Arizona	31	1	0	3	2	10	33	-23	0

First Period—1, Arizona, Schmalz 6 (Ekman-Larsson, Keller), 12:22 (pp), 2, Arizona, Cousins 3 (Arciniegas, Gollugg), 13:02.
Second Period—2, Boston, Heinen 4 (Donato, Forsbacka Karlsson), 8:40, 4, Boston, Pastnak 21 (Krejci, Marchand), 9:13, 5, Boston, Marchand 9 (Krejci, Pastnak), 11:31, 6, Boston, Marchand 10 (Pastnak, Krejci), 13:30, 7, Arizona, Bunting 1, 15:00.
Shots on Goal—Arizona 71-79-93. Boston 12-9-5-26.
Power-play opportunities—Arizona 1 of 2; Boston 1 of 5.
Goalies—Arizona, Kuemper 4-6-2 (26 shots-22 saves). Boston, Rask 8-6-2 (33-30).
 A-17-565 (17,565), T-2-36.



The Florida Panthers' Mike Hoffman celebrates after scoring during the third period of Tuesday's game against the Blues in St. Louis.

Canucks 3, Blue Jackets 2

Vancouver									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
Vancouver	30	1	0	2	2	10	33	-23	0

First Period—1, Columbus, Jones 6 (Pansini, Adams), 0-47.
Third Period—2, Columbus, Leivo 6 (Taney, Pettersson), 8:11, 3, Columbus, Bjorkstrand 3 (Dubois, Harrington), 9:56, 4, Vancouver, Pettersson 16 (Leivo, Edler), 16:56, 5, Vancouver, Virtanen 10 (Motte, Goldobin), 18:14.
Shots on Goal—Vancouver 10-10-25. Columbus 9-17-10-36.
Power-play opportunities—Vancouver 0 of 1; Columbus 0 of 2.
Goalies—Vancouver, Markstrom 11-9-3 (36 shots-33 saves). Columbus, Korpisalo 5-22 (25-22).
 A-14-699 (18,500), T-2-27.

Capitals 6, Red Wings 2

Detroit									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
Detroit	30	0	2	2	0	10	33	-23	0

First Period—1, Washington, Connolly 6 (Carlson, Kuznetsov), 3:39 (pp), 2, Washington, Boyd 2 (Dowd, Jaskin), 10:50, 3, Washington, Ovechkin 23 (Kempny, Backstrom), 12:59.
Second Period—4, Washington, Ovechkin 24 (Carlson, Backstrom), 9:05, 5, Washington, Oshie 10 (Backstrom, Kuznetsov), 10:06 (pp).
Third Period—6, Detroit, Larkin 13 (Jensen, Nyquist), 1:23, 7, Washington, Ovechkin 24 (Carlson, Backstrom), 9:05, 8, Detroit, Nyquist 8 (Abdekar, Leake), 16:42.
Shots on Goal—Detroit 11-10-16-37. Washington 10-7-8-25.
Power-play opportunities—Detroit 0 of 1; Washington 2 of 2.
Goalies—Detroit, Howard 10-6-4 (10 shots-9 saves). Bernier 4-8-0 (15-10). Washington, Holtby 12-7-2 (37-35).
 A-16-506 (18,277), T-2-35.

Maple Leafs 4, Hurricanes 1

Toronto									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
Toronto	31	1	0	2	2	10	33	-23	0

First Period—1, Toronto, Ennis 5 (Dermott, Gauthier), 8:05.
Second Period—2, Carolina, Williams 6 (Aho, Rask), 12:44 (pp), 3, Toronto, Rielly 10 (Nylander, Matthews), 13:51.
Third Period—4, Toronto, Marleau 8 (Korhonen, Nylander), 5:08, 5, Toronto, Tavares 19 (Gardiner, Marner), 8:29.
Shots on Goal—Toronto 15-17-29. Carolina 8-12-30-30.
Power-play opportunities—Toronto 0 of 4; Carolina 0 of 5.
Goalies—Toronto, Andersen 17-8-0 (30 shots-29 saves). Carolina, Mrazek 4-9-2 (29-25).
 A-11-907 (18,680), T-2-20.

Sabres 4, Kings 3 (OT)

Los Angeles									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
Los Angeles	31	2	0	0	3	10	33	-23	0

First Period—1, Los Angeles, Muzzin 2 (Atafalo, Kopitar), 6:11, 2, Buffalo, Girgensons 3, 12:26.
Second Period—5, Los Angeles, Luff 6 (Forsberg, Pettersson), 5:05, 7, Los Angeles, Kempe 5 (Forsberg, Leipold), 12:57.
Third Period—3, Buffalo, Eichl 10 (Ristolainen, Reinhart), 3:45 (pp), 6, Buffalo, Larkin 2 (Rodrigues, Piloni), 7:23.
Overtime—1, Buffalo, Skinner 21 (Eichel, Ristolainen), 1:49 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 10-15-4-29. Buffalo 16-11-16-4-47.
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 0 of 4; Buffalo 5 of 5.
Goalies—Los Angeles, Petersen 4-1 (47 shots-43 saves). Buffalo, Ulmark 6-13 (29-26).
 A-17-897 (19,070), T-2-50.

Predators 3, Senators 1

Ottawa									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
Ottawa	31	1	1	3	3	10	33	-23	0

First Period—1, Ottawa, Z. Smith 5 (Cecchi, Zingrippe), 0:26, 2, Nashville, Watson 6 (Sissons, Ouellet), 15:38.
Second Period—3, Nashville, Ellis 3 (Johansen, Joshi), 9:01.
Third Period—4, Nashville, C. Smith 9, 1:59.
Shots on Goal—Ottawa 8-8-10-26. Nashville 15-12-13-40.
Power-play opportunities—Ottawa 0 of 3; Nashville 0 of 2.
Goalies—Ottawa, Anderson 12-12-3 (36 shots-33 saves). Nashville, Rimkus 5-1 (26-25).
 A-17,162 (17,113), T-2-23.

Jets 6, Blackhawks 3

Chicago									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
Chicago	30	0	2	1	1	10	33	-23	0

First Period—1, Winnipeg, Scheffle 17 (Bygglund, Wheeler), 7:49 (pp), 2, Winnipeg, Myers 3 (Drozdov), 9:01, 3, Winnipeg, Connor 12 (Laine), 13:38.
Second Period—4, Winnipeg, Connor 13 (Scheffle, Bygglund), 1:44 (pp), 5, Chicago, Strome 7 (Kane, Keith), 2:44, 6, Chicago, Kahun 4 (Kojima, Kaprielian), 7:09.
Third Period—7, Chicago, DeBrincat 12 (Kane), 6:08, 8, Winnipeg, Perreault 4 (Myers, Ehlers), 11:36 (pp), 9, Winnipeg, Tanev 6 (Bygglund), 19:55.
Shots on Goal—Chicago 5-17-13-35. Winnipeg 15-10-34-34.
Power-play opportunities—Chicago 0 of 2; Winnipeg 3 of 5.
Goalies—Chicago, Ward 4-4-4 (33 shots-28 saves). Winnipeg, Brossit 6-11 (35-32).
 A-15,321 (15,321), T-2-22.

Blues 4, Panthers 3

Florida									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
Florida	30	1	0	2	3	10	33	-23	0

First Period—1, Panthers, Daddio 14 (Haberle), 15:29.
Second Period—2, St. Louis, Barbashev 4 (Thomas, Sundqvist), 1:28, 3, St. Louis, Perron 9 (Schwartz), 1:39, 4, St. Louis, Perron 10 (Schenn, Schwartz), 11:12, 5, Florida, Weegar 1 (McCaun, Pysyok), 11:46, 6, Florida, Hoffman 15 (Huberdeau, Barkov), 13:14, 7, St. Louis, Schenn 7 (Dunn, Stenlund), 15:29.
Shots on Goal—Florida 5-13-25-43. St. Louis 10-19-14-34.
Power-play opportunities—Florida 0 of 2; St. Louis 0 of 3.
Goalies—Florida, Luongo 5-5-1 (33 shots-29 saves). St. Louis, Allen 8-9-25 (22-22).
 A-16,255 (19,150), T-2-38.

Wild 7, Canadiens 1

Montreal									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Dif	OTL
Montreal	30	0	1	1	1	10	33	-23	0

First Period—1, Minnesota, Niederreiter 5 (Brodin, Parise), 14:01.
Second Period—2, Minnesota, Dumba 11 (Parise, Granlund), 1:11 (pp), 3, Minnesota, Coyte 5 (Foligno), 12:53 (sh), 4, Minnesota, Dumba 15 (Huberdeau), 14:58.
Third Period—5, Minnesota, Spurgeon 4 (Zucker, Niederreiter), 1:49 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Minnesota 20-12-34. Montreal 12-9-10-31.
Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0 of 1; Minnesota 5 of 5.
Goalies—Montreal, Nieri 4-31 (24 shots-21 saves). Minnesota, Dumba 11-30-30 (29-29).
 A-16,651 (18,654), T-2-24.

Detroit Red Wings center Michael Rasmussen, left, defends against Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin during the second period of Tuesday's game in Washington. Ovechkin scored a hat trick.

ALEX BRANDON/AP

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Penn ends Villanova's Philly supremacy

Quakers' upset halts Wildcats' run of city-record 25 straight wins against Big 5 rivals

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Phil Booth took the potential tying shot with hands that have slipped on two Villanova national championship rings, and a tick of the clock suddenly seemed endless.

"The ball seemed like it was up there for way too long," Penn forward AJ Brodeur said.

The shot was off. The Penn party was on.

The Quakers — who had shared the role of Philly's doormat with the other three Big 5 schools during Villanova's rise to dominance — had achieved the improbable upset, beating No. 17 Villanova 78-75 Tuesday night.

The final buzzer sent Penn students sprinting onto the Palestra court at speeds that could have qualified them to run in the famed relays next door. The fans tossed streamers, hopped around at midcourt, and mobbed the players who had set off a regular-season celebration not seen in Philly in years.

And with good reason — the national champion Wildcats had won a city-record 25 straight games against Big 5 rivals Temple, Saint Joseph's, La Salle and the Quakers.

"They call it the Big 5. But really it seems like the Big 1," Brodeur said. "Villanova is always coming out on top. They're always on the podium at the end of the year in the Big 5 banquet."

Brodeur, Antonio Woods and Michael Wang all sank free throw after free throw to pad the lead for Penn (9-2) in the stunner. Penn coach Steve Donahue, who led Cornell to the Sweet 16 in 2010, may have another blooming Ivy League power. Penn last beat Villanova at the Palestra on Dec. 5, 2001, and hadn't beat them at all since Dec. 10, 2002.

The Quakers doused Donahue with water in the locker room as the celebration continued until the coach huddled up the players for a simple message: "We're not pretty, we're gritty."

The Wildcats (8-3) paid the price — they hadn't lost a city series game since dropping a 76-61 decision to Temple on Dec. 5, 2012.

"It was nice while it lasted," coach Jay Wright said. "We learn from it. It was fun to be a part of it."

Wright calmly tugged at his suit and looked at the scoreboard that read 75-69 as the Wildcats went into a timeout needing a hoops miracle to pull this one off. They nearly got one — Booth hit a fall-away three



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Penn's Antonio Woods reacts after drawing a foul during the second half against Villanova on Tuesday in Philadelphia. Woods scored 16 points as the Quakers earned their first win over the Wildcats since 2002, 78-75.

that pulled them to 75-72 and another with 1.3 seconds to go that made it 78-75.

Woods sailed an inbound pass wildly out of bounds on the opposite end and Nova had one last shot to extend the streak.

"They trust me with the ball in my hands and unfortunately it was a huge error," Woods said.

Donahue quickly interjected: "I should have put someone there at the foul line at the other end and I didn't. That was my mistake and I knew it. He did what he was told."

The Wildcats won the 2016 national title with a shot at the buzzer and won a few close ones en route to the 2018 title. They turned to Booth to bail them out, but he shot an airball.

Brodeur and Woods each scored 16 points and Wang added 14 points for Penn. The Quakers made 25 of 37 free throws.

Collin Gillespie scored 21 points and Booth finished with 18 for Villanova.

The Quakers came out primed for an upset at the Palestra, home of some of the greatest moments in Philadelphia college hoops history. With a packed house on hand — "corners," as it's called at the Palestra — and students holding signs that read "There's No Fear Here," Penn did just about everything right early to position itself for an upset.

"Just the look, when you come out of the locker room and it's a sea of red," Donahue said. "I'm glad we were able to reward them."

Bryce Washington hit a pair of threes and the Quakers raced to a 14-2 lead over the rattled Wildcats. Penn — a 7½-point underdog — led 32-28 at the break.

The Quakers had been building toward a monumental upset since coach Donahue was hired in 2015. Donahue, who flamed out at Boston College, won 11 and 13 games his first two seasons before guiding the Quakers to a 24-9 record and their first NCAA Tournament berth since 2007. The Quakers opened this season 4-0 and upset Miami 89-75 at the Palestra for their first win over a Power Five conference team since the 2002-03 season.

"This group, whatever I ask of them, they try to do," Donahue said.

No. 23 Furman 77, Charleston Southern 69: Noah Gurley scored 17 points, Alex Hunter and Andrew Brown had 16 points apiece and the Paladins pulled away late for the win in their first-ever home game as a Top 25 team.

Furman (11-0) has been one of college basketball's biggest surprises with its school-record run to start the season. But the Paladins struggled to break away from the Buccaneers (4-5) until the final nine minutes.

The Paladins won despite a scoreless night from leading scorer Jordan Lyons (20.2 points per game), who missed all seven of his shots.

Matt Rafferty had 14 points and 14 rebounds for Furman.

South Dakota State 139, Savannah State 72: The host Jackrabbits scored 90 points at halftime and ran up a school-record total on their way to a rout of the Tigers.

Mike Daum had a double-double in the first half and finished with 37 points and 17 rebounds.

The Jackrabbits set single-game school records for points in a half, three-pointers made (23) and field goals made and attempted (53-for-87). SDSU's 139 points were one shy of the Summit League record held by former member Troy in 1995.

Daum had 26 points and 12 rebounds in the first half, and the Jackrabbits (9-3) eased up in the second half after leading 90-33 at the break. They shot 76 percent (35-for-46) in the fast-paced first half.

Skyler Flatten scored 29 points and David Jenkins had 28 points, making 8 of 11 three-pointers. Tevin King dished 13 assists.

South Dakota State maintained the nation's longest active home winning streak, earning its 26th victory at Frost Arena.

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MLB

McCutchen heads to Philadelphia

New York teams still could be trade partners

By BEN WALKER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Andrew McCutchen moving into Philadelphia's outfield, more talk about a megadeal involving Noah Syndergaard and J.T. Realmuto and veteran pitcher Ivan Nova on the go.

The winter meetings picked up a bit Tuesday, but any big deals for the likes of Corey Kluber, Manny Machado and Bryce Harper remained on deck.

There were reports the Baltimore Orioles, finally, were close to hiring a manager in Chicago Cubs bench coach Brandon Hyde. But the O's said those stories were premature and they wouldn't make a decision before leaving Las Vegas.

"We don't have a manager," newly hired general manager Mike Elias said.

The World Series champion Red Sox made a move, too — with their lineup. AL MVP Mookie Betts will shift out of the leadoff spot and bat behind Andrew Benintendi, manager Alex Cora said.

"I think we're going to maximize Mookie in a different spot. Flip-flop them, Ben! leading off and Mookie hitting second. Talked to him, it makes sense," Cora said.

"And I know Ben's OK with it. But if you play 162 games, you're going to come up 162 at-bats with nobody on," he said. "And last year, what I wanted from him in the leadoff spot, we accomplished. It's a different season and we have to make adjustments, and that's where we're going to go."

Betts led the majors in batting (.346) and slugging percentage (.640) and was second in on-base average (.438) for the 108-win Red Sox. He also had 84 extra-base hits, including 32 home runs.

Speculation continued to swirl about a huge swap that would include the Yankees and Mets. The New York teams don't usually do business directly, but this trade

would enlist a third team — the Miami Marlins and Realmuto, their star catcher.

"I'd like to think that we're very open-minded and aggressive and talk to everybody about what's available in the marketplace. And so it doesn't matter really for most part what the team is. I'll explore every opportunity that might be available," Yankees GM Brian Cashman said.

McCutchen, meanwhile, and the Phillies agreed to a \$50 million, three-year contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement, which includes a club option for 2022, is subject to a successful physical.

The 32-year-old was the NL MVP in 2013, highlighting his long run in Pittsburgh. He split last season with San Francisco and the Yankees, hitting a combined .255 with 20 homers and 65 RBIs.

The Phillies have a surplus of outfielders, including Odubell Herrera, Nick Williams, Aaron Altherr and Roman Quinn. Rhys Hoskins is shifting from left field to first base after Carlos Santana was dealt to Seattle.

Nova was traded from the Pirates to the Chicago White Sox for minor league pitcher Yordi Rosario and \$500,000 in international signing bonus pool allocation. The 31-year-old righty was 9-9 with a 4.19 ERA in 29 starts this season.

The White Sox were searching for a starter after prized rookie Michael Kopech had Tommy John surgery in September.

"We think he's going to be able to eat up some innings and pitch effectively for us," Chicago manager Rick Renteria said. "I think the front office was doing their due diligence in trying to acquire someone of Nova's status and stature, and all the reports from everybody we've spoken to, this kid's a good pick-up for us."



JEFF CHIU/AP

Oakland Athletics draft pick Kyler Murray waits to hit during batting practice before a baseball game in June between the Athletics and the Los Angeles Angels in Oakland, Calif.

Heisman winner Murray thrills A's, except when he scrambles

By JANIE MCCAULEY
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Whenever Kyler Murray scrambles, the Oakland Athletics cringe.

They definitely don't want their prized baseball prospect hurt on the football field.

The Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback from Oklahoma has made himself many new fans in the A's organization — except when he dashes from the pocket.

Murray is a shifty runner, often breaking loose for big gains. He'll next play Dec. 29 when he leads the fourth-ranked Sooners against bruising No. 1 Alabama in a college football semifinal.

"We are big Oklahoma fans right now, for sure. It's kind of tough to watch him scramble around a little bit sometimes. But still, it's exciting," Athletics manager Bob Melvin said Tuesday at the winter meetings.

The Athletics are counting on Murray wearing an Oakland jersey in a few months at spring training, sharpening his skills as an outfielder.

Drafted last June in the first round as the ninth overall pick, Murray signed with Oakland for \$4.66 million. There was an agreement between the team and Murray that he would play football this year, then skip his senior season to begin his pro baseball career.

Murray showed off his skills at the Coliseum in an A's uniform back in June. Melvin, executive Billy Beane and general manager David Forst are just a few of the A's brass who have been watching him closely ever since as he guides Oklahoma.

Not to mention some potential division opponents. "I'm watching Oklahoma football," Angels general manager Billy Eppler said, smiling and chucking from his suite high above the Las Vegas Strip. "He seems like a very remarkable athlete. We've known that a little bit about him, even from his high school days. He was a two-sport All-American in high school, Mr. Everything. I know somebody that has come in contact with him even back when he was just coming out of high school. His quarterback development and all those types of things, I have some common friends from some NFL commonalities,



ALONZO ADAMS/AP

Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray suddenly has a bunch of new fans in the Oakland Athletics organization, even if they cringe watching the Heisman Trophy winner play. The A's don't want their prized first-round draft pick hurt on the football field because they are counting on him wearing an Oakland jersey come spring training.

and he's really fun to watch. It will be interesting to see how all that unfolds."

Melvin is watching more Oklahoma games than he expected, noting: "We are pulling hard for them."

"You're reading before the season started is he going to be the starter there and the next thing you know he's the Heisman Trophy winner and has a chance to win national championship," Melvin said. Murray is represented by agent Scott Boras, and the A's fully expect Murray to pursue baseball.

"He's one of the great athletes you're going to see," Melvin said. "How many guys are able to ... drafted in the first round ... Heisman Trophy winner? There aren't many of those guys. You know athletically he can handle just about anything."

Melvin certainly has envisioned Murray as an A's major leaguer one day.

"Sure," Melvin said. "I don't know when."



TED S. WARREN/AP

All-Star outfielder Andrew McCutchen and the Philadelphia Phillies have agreed to a \$50 million three-year contract, according to a person who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

NBA/NFL

Roundup

Ibaka, Raptors roll past Clippers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Serge Ibaka had 25 points and nine rebounds, and the Toronto Raptors cruised past the Los Angeles Clippers 123-99 on Tuesday night without injured Kawhi Leonard.

Kyle Lowry added 21 points, making four of the Raptors' 14 three-pointers.

"It was just time for me to step up and play," Lowry said.

Leonard sat out with a bruised right hip that he hurt against Milwaukee last Sunday. He is day-to-day.

The Clippers endured their biggest loss of the season against the NBA's best team (22-7).

"This was a game everybody thought would be very difficult for us to win," coach Nick Nurse said, "but we kind of lined up all these things and were very focused."

With leading scorer Tobias Harris held to 10 points — about half his 21.4 average — the Clippers were led by a pair of reserves.

Boban Marjanovic had 18 points and Tyrone Wallace added 15. Their fourth loss in six games dropped them into tie for second with the Lakers at 17-10 in the Pacific Division.

Spurs 111, Suns 86: Bryn Forbes had a season-high 24 points and a career-best 11 rebounds to lead host San Antonio. The Spurs have won three straight halfway through a six-game homestand.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 18 points in 25 minutes. He sat out the fourth quarter with San Antonio leading by as many as 25 points.

Phoenix, which was without leading scorer Devin Booker for the fifth straight game, never led while falling to 12-24.

Rockets 111, Trail Blazers 103: James Harden had 29 points and seven Houston players scored in double figures as they used a big second-half run to snap a three-game losing streak.

Chris Paul added a triple double with 11 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists. Clint Capela added 13 points and seven rebounds before fouling out with five minutes left.

Houston's bench played a key role in a 24-6 first-half run that erased a 15-point deficit, and then led a charge in the second half. Gerald Green had 13 points, and Daniel House had 12 off the bench.



MARCIO JOSÉ SANCHEZ/AP

The Raptors' Serge Ibaka dunks against the Clippers during the second half on Tuesday. Toronto played without Kawhi Leonard but still handed Los Angeles its biggest loss of the season.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto	12	7	.759
Philadelphia	12	9	.773
Boston	16	10	.615
Brooklyn	10	18	.357
New York	6	20	.286

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Charlotte	13	13	.500
Orlando	12	14	.461
Miami	11	15	.423
Washington	11	16	.407
Atlanta	5	20	.201

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Milwaukee	18	8	.687
Indiana	14	10	.583
Chicago	13	12	.520
Detroit	15	15	.500
Cleveland	6	22	.214
Chicago	6	22	.214

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Memphis	11	11	.577
Dallas	17	10	.630
San Antonio	14	14	.500
Houston	15	15	.500
Phoenix	12	14	.461

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Oklahoma City	17	8	.680
Denver	11	12	.556
Portland	13	14	.581
Minnesota	13	14	.581
Utah	12	15	.444

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Golden State	19	6	.759
L.A. Clippers	17	10	.630
L.A. Lakers	17	10	.630
Sacramento	14	13	.519
Phoenix	4	24	.143

Monday's games			
Indiana 109, Washington 101			
Philadelphia 116, Detroit 102			
Boston 113, New Orleans 90			
Milwaukee 108, Cleveland 92			
Oklahoma City 122, Utah 113			
Sacramento 108, Chicago 99			
Dallas 101, Orlando 76			
Sacramento 114, Chicago 99			
L.A. Clippers 132, Phoenix 119, OT			
Golden State 116, Minnesota 108			
L.A. Lakers 108, Miami 105			

Tuesday's games			
Houston 111, Portland 104			
San Antonio 111, Phoenix 86			
Toronto 123, L.A. Clippers 99			

Wednesday's games			
Boston at Washington			
Brooklyn at Philadelphia			
Detroit at Charlotte			
Indiana at Philadelphia			
New York at Cleveland			
Oklahoma City at New Orleans			
Portland at Memphis			
Atlanta at Dallas			
Miami at Utah			
Minnesota at Sacramento			
Toronto at Golden State			

Thursday's games			
L.A. Lakers at Houston			
Clippers at San Antonio			
Chicago vs. Orlando at Mexico City			
Dallas at Phoenix			

Friday's games			
Atlanta at Boston			
New York at Charlotte			
Indiana at Philadelphia			
Cleveland at Cleveland			
Washington at Brooklyn			
Miami at Memphis			
Clippers at Sacramento			
Oklahoma City at Denver			
Toronto at Portland			

MARCIO JOSÉ SANCHEZ/AP

Tuesday

Raptors 123, Clippers 99

TORONTO — Green 4-7 1-2 9, Siakam 6-9 0-0 13, Ibaka 11-18 2-2 25, VanVleet 1-5 0-0 5, Lowry 8-13 1-1 21, Anunoby 5-9 0-0 12, Miles 1-6 2-2 5, Monroe 0-3 2-2 2, Valanciunas 7-12 1-2 15, Wright 5-10 0-0 2, Brown 0-0 0-0, Richardson 1-1 0-0 3. Totals 95-96 9-12 133.

L.A. CLIPPERS — L.A. Clippers 3-6 0-0 7, Bradley 0-6 0-0 0, Scott 3-8 2-2 9, Harrell 3-5 0-0 6, Marjanovic 7-9 4-4 18, Teodocio 3-7 0-1 7, Beverley 1-4 0-2 2, Thorndell 2-4 0-0 5, Wallace 6-11 3-4 15. Totals 38-85 16-9 99.

Three-point Goals—Toronto 14-29 (Ibaka 3, Anunoby 2, Siakam 2, VanVleet 1, Siakam 1-2, Miles 1-2, Beverley 1-2, VanVleet 1-2, Wright 1-2, Green 0-2), L.A. Clippers 7-25 (Teodocio 3-5, Scott 1-1, Gilliam-Alexander 1-3, Thorndell 1-3, Gallinari 1-5, Wallace 0-1, Beverley 0-2, Harris 0-3, Bradley 0-3, Foulout out—None, Rebounds—Toronto 43 (Ibaka 9), L.A. Clippers 44 (Scott 11). Assists—Toronto 24 (VanVleet 14), L.A. Clippers 25 (Wallace 6). Total Fouls—Toronto 22, L.A. Clippers 16. Technicals—Valanciunas, Beverley, A—17-612 (18,997).

Spurs 111, Suns 86

PHOENIX — Jackson 2-14 2-2 7, Warren 9-16 4-23, Ayton 6-10 0-12, Melton 7-7 0-0 17, Bridges 3-6 0-0, King 0-0 0-0 10, Holmes 2-4 4-5 8, Bender 1-3 0-2 2, Evans 2-7 0-0 4, Daniels 1-2 3-3 0-0 3, Totals 38-82 12-48.

SAN ANTONIO — White 1-8 2-2 4, Gay 4-7 4-13, Aldridge 8-16 2-4 18, Forbes 8-14 2-3 24, DeRozan 3-4 2-5, Cunningham 5-7 0-0 14, Ponder 1-1 0-0 3, Metu 2-2 0-0 4, Poeltl 4-7 0-0 8, Mills 1-3 4-11, Bealinski 1-2 0-0 11. Totals 41-83 16-19 111.

Phoenix — Phoenix 20 26 18 22 86. Three-point Goals—Phoenix 6-28 (Melton 3-7, Bridges 2-6, Daniels 1-4, Jackson 1-4, Warren 1-5, Bender 0-2), San Antonio 12-31 (Forbes 5-5, Cunningham 4-4, Mills 1-1, Ponder 0-2, Gay 1-1, Bealinski 1-4, White 0-3). Foulout out—None, Rebounds—Phoenix 40 (Aldridge 18), San Antonio 46 (Poeltl, Forbes 11). Assists—Phoenix 19 (Melton 6), San Antonio 28 (DeRozan 9). Total Fouls—Phoenix 22, San Antonio 15, A—17-676 (18,581).

Rockets 111, Trail Blazers 104

PORTLAND — Harkless 4-9 0-0 9, Aminu 4-8 0-0 10, Nurkic 3-9 0-0 15,illard 12-25 7-24, McCollum 10-19 4-23, Layman 0-2 0-0 0, Leonard 0-1 0-0 0, Collins 2-6 0-0 5, Curry 2-3 0-0 6, Turner 1-3 0-2 2, Stauskas 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 38-87 18-21 104.

HOUSTON — Gibson 13-13 1-1 3, Tucker 3-6 0-0 7, Capela 5-11 1-13, Paul 2-12 7-8 11, Harden 10-20 2-25, Ennis 11-10 0-2, Nene 5-7 0-0 10, Green 0-0 0-0 0, Harkless 4-8 3-4 12. Totals 48-85 27-111.

Three-point Goals—Portland 10-25 (illard 4-7, Curry 2-2, Aminu 2-4, Collins 1-2, Harkless 1-3, Leonard 0-1, Turner 0-1, McCollum 0-2), Houston 10-24 (Gibson 4-9, Green 3-3, Tucker 1-3, House 1-4, Nene 0-1, Paul 0-0, Gordon 0-5). Foulout out—None, Rebounds—Portland (Aminu 15), Houston 42 (Paul 11). Assists—Portland 28 (Turner 6), Houston 27 (Paul 10). Total Fouls—Portland 17, Houston 21. A—18,955 (18,500).

Three-game skid prompts Steelers to weigh replacements

By WILL GRAVES

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Ben Roethlisberger's ribs are bruised but not broken.

The Pittsburgh Steelers believe the same could be said about their wildly uneven season.

Roethlisberger believes he'll play on Sunday when New England visits Heinz Field, one of the few certainties for a team in search of answers thanks to a three-game losing streak, the latest setback a baffling 24-21 defeat in Oakland that included Roethlisberger missing most of the second half after taking a shot to the ribs, another late meltdown by the defense and the latest botched kick by Chris Boswell.

"Whenever talking about consistent failures in recent weeks, it's usually a multitude of things," coach Mike Tomlin said Tuesday. "It's all of the above. We're open to change, going to make discussions regarding change."

Starting, potentially, at placekicker.

Boswell was a Pro Bowler in 2017, a season in which he drilled three game-winning field goals — and signed a contract extension in August that runs through 2022. Yet he has struggled with consistency this season.

When his left foot gave way on the final snap in Oakland, turning his potentially game-tying 40-yard attempt into a line drive that smacked into the sea of players in front of him, it marked his 11th missed kick this season (six field goals, five extra points). He missed just 13 combined kicks from 2015-17.

Tomlin said the team plans "to explore options that gives us the very best chances of the ball going through the upright this weekend." That includes holding tryouts to give others a look, though Tomlin admitted there isn't exactly much to choose from in mid-December.

"We're cognizant of what's available," Tomlin said. "The prudent approach is to include Chris in those options."

There are no such questions at quarterback despite an odd sequence in Oakland that led to Roethlisberger standing on the sideline in the fourth quarter while backup Josh Dobbs tried to build on a four-point lead. The issue is apparently an ancient X-ray machine at the Coliseum that offered no clarity on the extent of the rib injury Roethlisberger sustained while being driven into the ground late in the second quarter.

Roethlisberger, team physician James Bradley and general manager Kevin Colbert spent all

of halftime trying to get a clean X-ray but none surfaced.

"We never had a full understanding of what the injury was," Tomlin said. "The medical staff treated (Roethlisberger) to the best of our abilities."

Treatment that included "medicating" the 36-year-old quarterback while also keeping him out of the game as a precaution.

Tomlin likened the approach to the one the team took during a wild-card game in Cincinnati three years ago in which Roethlisberger hurt his right (throwing) shoulder at the end of the third quarter.

In that game, Roethlisberger stayed off the field until the Bengals rallied to take the lead in the final minutes. Roethlisberger came on and — with more than a little help from Cincinnati backup the Steelers rally to the victory.

It nearly happened again in Oakland. Roethlisberger completed all six of his passes on Pittsburgh's penultimate drive, the last a 1-yard touchdown pass to JuJu Smith-Schuster that put Pittsburgh up 21-20.

"We would only re-insert him if we felt it was necessary," Tomlin said. "We appreciate what he was able to do ... obviously it didn't end in the way that we would like."

Roethlisberger said during his weekly radio appearance Tuesday he expects to face the Patriots (9-4).

Tomlin indicated pain management will be the biggest concern. Roethlisberger rarely practices on Wednesdays and there's a chance he could be given an additional day off.

Tomlin said the team did not file a complaint with the league about the X-ray machine in Oakland and declined to use it as an excuse for any of the decision-making on the sideline or the play on the field. He's aware the Steelers' issues extend beyond Boswell, sloppy turf or outdated medical equipment.

The defense has allowed second-half leads to get away each of the past three weeks. The Raiders, who came in tied with San Francisco for the worst record in the league, went the length of the field twice in the final 10 minutes.

While Tomlin cautioned the defensive tweaks he's considering might not be "noticeable to the naked eye," he's aware the Steelers — their AFC North lead over Baltimore down to a half game — are in serious need of a kick-start.

"We're not going to hope and wish," Tomlin said. "We're not going to go through our process in the media for the outcome and hope that the outcome changes."

NFL



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley celebrates his 78-yard touchdown run during the first half of Sunday's game against the Washington Redskins in Landover, Md.

Revealing his goals

Giants rookie Barkley is just getting started

By TOM CANAVAN
Associated Press

COMING off his best game running the ball, Saquon Barkley unveiled a few goals for the final three weeks of the regular season for the New York Giants.

Of course, winning is No. 1. Leading the NFL in rushing either this year or down the road is high on his wish list, and so is greatness.

The last one might be the most surprising. There is little doubt Barkley is on the verge of greatness after 13 games, but the fact the humble 21-year-old mentioned it might raise some eyebrows.

Barkley rushed for 170 yards on 14 carries on Sunday as the Giants (5-8) posted their most impressive win in years with a 40-16 thrashing of the Washington Redskins. The effort was highlighted by a 78-yard touchdown run and it gave him the second pick overall in the draft 1,124 yards rushing, third in the league behind Ezekiel Elliott of Dallas (1,262) and Todd Gurley (1,203) of the Rams.

"Getting 1,000 yards in the NFL is an amazing accomplishment and being the first rookie ever for the Giants to do that is even a bigger one," Barkley said Monday. "It's big because even though my name might go in the record book, it's not just myself—it's the offensive line play and the guys in the running back room, all those guys have been a tremendous help."

Barkley, who says he learned his current standing in rushing leaders from social media, has moved up the list with four straight games of at least 100 yards on the ground.

"It's an honor to be up there, but at the end of the

day, that doesn't really matter," said Barkley, who has four touchdown runs of 50 yards or more. "It only matters how many wins you get and we've got to figure out how to continue to get those wins."

After going 1-7, the Giants have won four of five since their bye week. The only game they lost was to the Eagles after blowing a 16-point first-half lead. New York has an outside chance to make the playoffs as a wild card.

Barkley, who also leads the Giants with 78 catches, will chase that and his other goals.

"I want to be great. I want to go down as one of the best, and that's not just going to happen in one day," Barkley said. "You have to work for it, obviously with the help of your teammates, but if I don't get it this year, I'm going to get it at some point. I promise you."

Giants rookie cornerback Grant Haley smiled when asked if he was surprised by what his former Penn State teammate is doing as a pro.

"I think it is kind of funny, everyone's reactions on the sideline when he makes runs," Haley said. "I'm just sitting there, and I mean it's still impressive, but I've seen that before. He just so special."

The Giants, who struggled to score early in the season, have averaged 31.4 points in the past five games.

Receiver Sterling Shepard, who had big blocks on Barkley's two longest runs, said the running game is going to open up the passing game for Eli Manning.

"I just know that you give him a couple of touches, he's going to make something big happen out of those couple of touches, so he's a player that's special," Shepard said. "You got to give him the ball and he can make magic happen."

Leaders

AFC				
Week 14				
Quarterbacks				
	Att	Comp	Yds	TD Int
Mahomes, KC	482	322	4300	43 11
Roethlisberger, PIT	546	366	4272	28 13
Luck, IND	530	359	3759	34 13
Brady, NE	477	313	3700	23 8
P. Rivers, LAC	409	284	3638	29 6
D. Carr, OAK	456	317	3434	18 8
Watson, HOU	468	269	3298	22 9
Keenum, DEN	453	280	3139	15 10
Mayfield, CLE	376	242	2877	19 10
Bortles, JAC	369	223	2572	13 10
Rushers				

Rushers			
Yds		Att	Yds
Lindsay, DEN	168	967	5.8
Conner, PIT	201	909	4.5
L. Miller, HOU	150	909	4.8
Mixon, CIN	180	866	4.8
Kareem Hunt, KC	181	824	4.5
M. Gordon, LAC	153	802	5.2
N. Chubb, CLE	144	760	5.3
D. Henry, TEN	145	712	4.9
Gore, MIA	151	708	4.7
Michel, NE	164	706	4.3

Receivers			
Yds		Att	Yds
T. Hill, KC	74	1258	17.0
Smith-Schuster, PIT	91	1234	13.6
Kelce, KC	86	1159	13.5
D. Hopkins, HOU	84	1151	13.7
K. Allen, LAC	88	1074	12.2
A. Brown, PIT	83	1063	12.4
Byrd, CIN	72	990	13.8
T. Hilton, IND	61	862	12.9
E. Sanders, DEN	71	868	12.2
Cook, AAK	61	825	13.5

Punters			
Yds		Att	Yds
Kern, TEN	59	2822	42
Koch, BAL	50	2369	65
R. Allen, NYJ	49	2251	66
Sanchez, IND	48	2200	61
L. Edwards, NYJ	69	2153	67
B. Colquitt, CLE	53	2395	75.3
Bojorquez, BUF	45	2028	60
Haack, MIA	69	2080	65
D. Colquitt, KC	31	1646	67
Wadman, DEN	50	2223	59

Punt returns			
Yds		Att	Yds
A. Roberts, NYJ	19	290	15.3
D. King, LAC	20	285	14.2
Ericsson, CIN	17	205	12.1
Rogers, IND	19	212	11.2
T. Hill, KC	19	210	11.1
Peppers, CLE	21	136	9.4
Switzer, PIT	27	227	17.1
Patterson, HOU	21	175	8.3

Kickoff returns			
Yds		Att	Yds
Patton, NE	20	610	30.0
Jak. Grant, MIA	19	535	29.7
T. Smith, KC	23	642	27.9
A. Roberts, NYJ	21	641	27.8
Ericsson, CIN	29	717	24.7
D. King, LAC	18	430	23.9
Dw. Harris, OAK	21	458	21.7
Switzer, PIT	25	492	19.7

Touchdowns			
TD Rush		Ret	Pts
Kareem Hunt, KC	14	7	0
Conner, PIT	13	12	1
M. Gordon, LAC	13	4	0
Ebron, IND	13	1	0
N. Chubb, CLE	12	1	0
H. Hill, KC	12	0	0
N. Chubb, CLE	10	8	0
Kelce, KC	10	0	0
Lindsay, DEN	10	9	0
J. White, NE	10	4	0

Kicking			
PAT		Yds	FG
Fairbairn, HOU	18	2934	14
Baker, NYJ	54	548	21
Butker, KC	51	511	22
Gowinski, NE	40	249	52
Tucker, BAL	31	372	56
Switzer, PIT	23	225	54
Vinateri, IND	37	367	54
Switzer, PIT	37	367	54
J. Sanders, MIA	30	318	50
Hauschka, BUF	17	167	50

Average per game			
Yards		Offense	Defense
Kansas City	437.5	118.6	318.8
Pittsburgh	408.1	118.1	290.0
New England	397.1	118.2	278.8
Houston	385.8	122.7	263.0
Indianapolis	382.4	105.5	276.8
Baltimore	369.6	134.5	235.2
Houston	365.8	123.7	242.0
Cleveland	359.4	102.0	257.3
New England	347.3	101.5	245.8
Oakland	329.0	107.3	221.7
San Francisco	325.7	123.8	201.8
Tennessee	319.1	124.3	194.8
San Francisco	292.1	105.5	186.5
N.Y. Jets	296.9	106.2	190.7
Buffalo	292.0	125.3	166.7

DEFENSE			
Yards		Rush	Pass
Buffalo	104.8	18.8	86.0
San Francisco	293.9	87.8	206.2
Jacksonville	324.1	104.3	219.7
Pittsburgh	330.8	89.9	239.9
L.A. Chargers	331.8	107.1	224.8
San Francisco	319.3	112.3	207.0
Indianapolis	345.3	102.9	242.4
Houston	348.8	88.2	260.6
New England	372.5	113.0	259.5
N.Y. Jets	375.8	132.0	243.8
Oakland	414.2	119.2	295.0
Oakland	392.2	144.5	247.7
Miami	401.1	139.5	261.6
San Francisco	409.6	126.8	282.8
Cleveland	411.2	133.3	277.9
Cincinnati	421.9	148.1	273.8

NFC					
Week 14					
Quarterbacks					
	Att	Com	Yds	TD Int	
Ryan, ATL	502	354	4076	28	6
Goff, LA	458	295	3934	27	11
A. Rodgers, GBY	495	307	3700	23	1
Cousins, MIN	524	370	3698	24	9
Brees, NOR	415	314	3463	31	4
Manning, NYG	458	310	3460	18	8
Newton, CAR	442	304	3264	24	12
Stafford, DET	462	307	3187	18	11
Prescott, DAL	418	285	3131	17	7
Wentz, PHL	401	279	3074	21	7

Rushers			
Yds		Att	Yds
E. Elliott, DAL	268	1262	4.7
Gurley, LA	244	1203	4.9
Barkley, NYG	209	1124	5.4
McCaffrey, CAR	179	926	5.2
A. Peterson, WAS	202	872	4.3
Dav. Johnson, ARI	220	810	3.7
C. Carson, SEA	179	794	4.4
Kamara, NOR	173	793	4.6
Breida, SNF	132	744	5.6
Aa. Jones, GBY	129	720	5.6

Receivers			
Yds		Att	Yds
Ju. Jones, ATL	84	1429	15.3
Thielen, MIN	103	1236	12.0
M. Thomas, NOR	102	1128	11.9
M. Evans, TAM	71	1207	17.2
D. Adams, GBY	92	1196	13.0
Alittle, NYG	67	1093	16.0
Beckham, NYG	71	1032	14.5
Cooks, LA	66	1048	15.9
R. Woods, LA	71	1032	14.5
Ertz, PHI	98	1016	10.4

Punters			
Yds		Att	Yds
A. Lee, ARI	47	2739	64.8
Johnston, PHI	53	2563	68.4
M. Dickson, SEA	60	2899	69.4
O'Connell, NYG	49	2250	60.4
Dixon, CHI	51	2320	65.4
Hekker, LA	35	1590	68.4
Scott, GBY	56	2538	67.4
S. Martin, DET	57	2583	61.4
Chris Jones, DAL	51	2307	63.4

Punt returns			
Yds		Att	Yds
Cohen, CHI	29	360	12.4
Shelton, NYG	20	245	12.2
Sherets, MIN	18	160	9.8
Thielen, MIN	22	172	13.1
A. Humphries, TAM	18	116	6.6
Lockett, SEA	22	122	5.5

Kickoff returns			
Yds		Att	Yds
M. Hall, ATL	21	529	25.2
C. Counts, LA	17	414	24.6
R. James, SNF	18	412	22.9

Scoring			
TD Rush		Ret	Pts
Gurley, LA	15	0	0
Kamara, NOR	15	11	4
Barkley, NYG	13	9	0
McCaffrey, CAR	13	4	0
D. Adams, GBY	12	0	0
Lockett, SEA	9	0	0
Thielen, MIN	9	0	0
E. Elliott, DAL	9	6	3
Aa. Jones, GBY	8	1	0

Kicking			
PAT		Yds	FG
Lutz, NOR	54	4647	25.26
Rosas, NYG	25	26	28.29
Maher, DAL	25	26	27.32
Parkey, CHI	36	36	24.31
Goft, NYG	36	36	21.27
Goft, NYG	22	22	25.55
Parkey, CHI	36	36	21.27
Goft, NYG	22	22	25.55
Parkey, CHI	36	36	21.27
Goft, NYG	22	22	25.55

Teams statistics			
Average per game		Offense	Defense
Tampa Bay	450.1	125.7	228.8
L.A. Rams	399.8	125.3	273.7
New Orleans	381.0	125.3	228.8
Atlanta	375.0	181.2	293.8
Green Bay	374.4	108.2	266.2
San Francisco	369.6	123.7	239.0
Minnesota	354.4	85.4	269.0
Philadelphia	348.3	108.2	248.3
Philadelphia	352.7	97.9	254.8
Dallas	350.6	132.3	218.3
Seattle	347.2	215.5	225.7
Seattle	347.2	153.8	193.3
San Francisco	330.6	103.0	227.6
Washington	307.7	114.1	206.3
Arizona	242.4	84.1	158.3

Green Bay	374.4	108.2	266.2
San Francisco	365.2	125.7	239.5
Chicago	363.2	125.3	237.9
N.Y. Giants	354.2	105.9	248.2
Philadelphia	352.7	97.9	254.8
Dallas	350.6	132.3	218.3
Chicago	347.1	125.7	221.4
Detroit	347.2	153.8	193.4
Detroit	336.6	103.0	227.6
Washington	320.7	114.1	206.6
Arizona	242.4	84.1	158.3

DEFENSE			
	Yards	Rush	Pass
San Francisco	309.6	83.2	226.7
Chicago	313.4	86.8	226.6
Minnesota	309.3	108.0	201.3
San Francisco	340.4	107.8	232.5
Philadelphia	343.2	125.3	217.9
Detroit	343.7	115.2	228.5
New Orleans	348.8	176.2	172.6
San Francisco	339.5	119.5	220.0
Green Bay	351.2	126.6	224.5
Seattle	350.6	117.7	232.9
Carolina	362.4	193.1	169.3
Washington	370.1	112.3	257.8
N.Y. Giants	370.8	121.8	249.0
Philadelphia	384.0	166.6	217.4
San Francisco	384.0	131.2	252.8
Tampa Bay	387.9	119.4	268.5

NFL



Chargers running back Melvin Gordon is helped off the field after spraining his right MCL against the Arizona Cardinals on Nov. 25.

KELVIN KAO/AP

Game-time decision

Status still uncertain for Chargers' Gordon

By JOE REEDY
Associated Press

COSTA MESA, Calif. — Melvin Gordon wants to suit up for the Los Angeles Chargers' biggest game of the season Thursday night at Kansas City, but he says his status will likely not be decided until 90 minutes before kickoff.

The fourth-year running back has missed the past two games after spraining the MCL in his right knee during the second half of the Chargers' Nov. 26 win against Arizona. He is sixth in the AFC in rushing with 802 yards despite missing three games and leads the conference in rushing average per game (80.2).

Gordon said he is stronger and confident about the knee, but he acknowledges that it will not be 100 percent if he plays against the Chiefs. He was listed as limited on the team's Tuesday practice report, which was the first time he has participated in a practice since the injury.

"We need all the playmakers we need to beat KC," he said. "I have so much at stake right now and I want to help I can. If I can't go out there and be me and can't make my cuts I don't want to be out there."

The Chargers (10-3) can clinch their first playoff spot since 2013 with a win against the Chiefs (11-2). It would also move them into a tie with Kansas City atop the AFC West, but the Chiefs would hold the tiebreaker due to a better division record.

Los Angeles will need to win out if it has any hopes of winning the division and then hope Kansas City drops one of its final two



Jae C. Hong/AP

Chargers running back Melvin Gordon watches from the sideline Sunday's game against the Cincinnati Bengals.

games, which are at Seattle and home to Oakland.

Gordon is averaging 3.7 yards per carry in six games against the Chiefs, which is below his career average of 4.1. He has made a bigger impact as a receiver in the past two meetings with 15 receptions for 193 yards. He had nine catches for 102 yards in the Sept. 9 loss to the Chiefs.

"If I sat out until the playoffs, I could wait and know I would be full go. It's just being smart and not prolonging injury," Gordon said.

Gordon's status is more complicated with backup Austin Ekeler in concussion protocol and dealing with a bruised nerve in his neck, which occurred late in Sunday's 26-21 win over Cincinnati. That could leave the Chargers relying on a pair of rookies. Justin Jackson will see a bigger



Los Angeles Chargers (10-3)
at Kansas City Chiefs (11-2)

AFN-Sports
2 a.m. Friday CET
10 a.m. Friday JKT

role — either getting his first career start or as the backup — and Detrez Newsome could see his first significant action at running back.

Another factor is that the Chargers are not having full practices due to the short week. Coach Anthony Lynn said they can get a lot accomplished during walkthroughs.

"I really think if you focus and lock in the meeting room like you should, you come out on the field and you go at a slower tempo but mentally you're there and you're in the present moment," he said. "I think you can get just as good of work done as full speed without the collisions and injury. There's a skill and an art to practicing without the pads and walking through, and I think this club is getting better at that."

Phil Rivers has confidence in the two rookies if Gordon and Ekeler are unable to go.

"They are two young guys who are sharp. There will be added emphasis on my part to communicate, especially with the crowd noise, so that they can play fast," Rivers said. "If that's the case, we'll just roll and go."

More: Hill needs just 134 receiving yards to set franchise season record

FROM BACK PAGE

The deep throw from Mahomes was in some ways a wing-and-a-prayer, the kind of ball you throw when you run out of better options. Hill acted like a center fielder as he came back to the ball, tracking it all the way into his hands while a pair of Ravens tried to break it up.

"He's still fast as all get-out," Mahomes said, "but just being able to get himself open whenever he is a little bit more limited in that situation, it's a special thing."

Hill finished the game with eight catches for 139 yards, his fifth 100-yard receiving game this season. He now has 1,258 yards to match Tony Gonzalez for the fourth-best single season in franchise history, and he needs just 134 yards to pass Derrick Alexander for the record.

That could come as early as Thursday night, when the Chiefs (11-2) try to clinch the AFC West and a first-round playoff bid against the Los Angeles Chargers at Arrowhead Stadium.

"This kid never complains about anything and he practices hard every day," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "He was banged up a little bit (against Baltimore)



KELVIN KAO/AP

Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Tyreek Hill has five 100-yard receiving games this season. He had eight catches 139 yards during Sunday's OT win over Baltimore.

and he worked his way through it, came back and made some big plays for us. You

love his attitude. He's another one that is unique."

His attitude may have been the biggest question surrounding Hill coming out of college.

He was kicked off the team at Oklahoma State after pleading guilty to domestic assault of his then-pregnant girlfriend. He wound up finishing his college career at West Alabama, and went through counseling and other requirements that convinced the Chiefs to give him a chance.

Hill has rewarded them for it, becoming not only one of the most electrifying players in the NFL, but doing so with a positive attitude that has endeared him to many skeptical fans.

"Just making plays for the team," he said with a shrug.

Hill also shrugged off any notion that he would have remained out of the game against Baltimore, and he left no doubt that he would be ready for the Chargers. The wrist injury was minor, and the foot was something he was able to play through, and there wasn't a whole lot more to say.

"I was always taught, no matter the circumstances, these are my brothers," he said. "And they would do the same thing for me."

SPORTS



Hat trick
Capitals rout Red Wings behind
Ovechkin's 3 goals » **NHL, Page 26**

NFL

More than just SPEED

Chiefs' Hill shows grit
in OT win over Ravens

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

Tyreek Hill walked off the field holding his wrist Sunday and Kansas City Chiefs fans held their collective breath, only to exhale when their star wide receiver checked back into the game.

They held it again when Hill hobbled to the sideline with a foot injury.

But in a back-and-forth game with significant playoff ramifications, there was no way Hill was going to stay there.

He limped back into the game in time to catch Patrick Mahomes' 40-yard heave on fourth-and-long to keep the Chiefs alive, then caught three more passes in overtime—all for first downs—to set the Chiefs up for the eventual winning field goal against Baltimore.

"He's a fighter," Mahomes said afterward. "He was hobbled, but you've seen this whole season that it's not just speed now. It's his route-running, and he knows how to get himself open without speed."

Oh, the speed is still there. Even after the pain in his foot briefly sent him to the sideline, Hill was still the fastest player on the field the moment he stepped back on it.

But in addition to his toughness, he also showed how well-rounded he's become this season.

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'This kid never complains about anything and he practices hard every day.'

Andy Reid
Chiefs coach,
on WR/returner
Tyreek Hill

Inside:

- Chargers RB Gordon still a game-time decision for Chargers, Page 31
- Giants' Barkley sets some lofty goals beyond this season, Page 30

Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Tyreek Hill looks for room against the Los Angeles Rams on Nov. 19 in Los Angeles.

KYUSUNG GONG/AP

Penn upsets 17th-ranked Villanova » College basketball, Page 27

